Sunday, May 17, 2026 No 136 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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TN CM Vijay to helm police, women, youth welfare

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P6

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ROLE OF MANISHA MANDHARE

- As per CBI, she was involved in NEET-UG exam process, appointed by the NTA as an expert
- She had complete access to botany, zoology question papers
- She allegedly dictated leaked questions and responses to select students for money
- Her arrest was based on questioning of 'kingpin' P V Kulkarni and other accused

NEET leak: CBI arrests botany lecturer from Pune

Probe agency says 'actual source' of paper leak identified

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A senior botany lecturer from Pune was arrested on Saturday in connection with the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak, with the CBI claiming that the "actual source" of the leakage of chemistry and biology papers of the exam as well as the middlemen involved in mobilising students have been identified.

Manisha Gurunath Mandhare, the lecturer, was arrested following her questioning at the CBI headquarters here. The questioning of alleged kingpin PV Kulkarni, a chemistry lecturer, and Manisha Waghmare, who were arrested earlier, led the CBI to Mandhare's alleged involvement in the paper leak.

With this, nine people have been arrested in the case from Delhi, Jaipur, Gurugram, Nashik, Pune and Ahilyanagar since May 13.

The CBI took over the case on May 12 from Rajasthan Police's Special Operations Group, which initially probed the paper leak.

The CBI said its investigation so far has "brought out the actual source of the leakage" of chemistry and biology papers as well as the "middlemen involved in mobilising students who paid lakhs of rupees" to attend the special coaching classes where the questions that would come in the NEET UG-2026 exam were "dictated and discussed".

Mandhare was "involved" in the NEET UG 2026 examination process as an expert appointed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) conducting the NEET exam.

She had "complete access" to the botany and zoology question papers. During April, Mandhare had mobilised prospective NEET examination candidates through Manisha Waghmare of Pune and conducted special coaching classes for these students at her Pune residence, a CBI statement claimed.

▸ NEET, Page 5B

NSUI members being detained during a demonstration against the National Testing Agency over the question paper leak in the NEET-UG, in New Delhi, on Saturday. PTI

> During these (special coaching) classes, she explained and disclosed various questions from botany and zoology subjects and made the students note down the same in their notebooks and also mark them in their textbooks. Majority of these questions tallied with the actual question paper of the exam held on May 3.
>
> **CBI statement**

Centre appoints senior officials in NTA

The Union government on Saturday appointed two each joint secretaries and joint directors in the NTA. The officials belong to Indian Statistical Service, Indian Revenue Service, and Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

Pvt bus fares to rise by 10-20% from May 20

No hike in govt bus ticket prices, says Transport Minister

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Following the hike in diesel prices, private bus operators in Karnataka are set to increase fares by 10-20% starting May 20.

Some operators have already rolled out the revised fares. For instance, the fare for the Bengaluru-Mangaluru route, which was Rs 899, has risen to Rs 1,100 to 1,200 on a popular booking website. However, the hike will fully come into effect across the state later this week.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said only operators with All India Tourist Permits (AITP) — issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways — were raising the fares. Stage carriage permit holders, who come under the state Transport Department, can't raise fares, he said.

"We won't allow stage carriage permit holders to raise fares. We are monitoring them. The Centre should rein in AITP operators," he told *DH*.

Reddy added that government bus fares would not increase. "We will be making losses but won't burden the people," he said.

The Federation of Karnataka State Private Bus Association defended the move, stating that operating under the older pricing structure is no longer financially viable.

T G Chandra Shekar, general secretary of the Karnataka State Bus Association, indicated that the fare revision will account for market volatility in the coming days.

"We decided to increase fares by Rs 150-200 for journeys spanning 300-400 km. There is a strong possibility that diesel prices may go up again next week, and we have to adjust our ticket prices accordingly," Shekar said.

S Nataraj Sharma, president of the Karnataka State Bus Owners' Association (KSBOA), emphasised that the burden is not restricted to the increasing fuel price alone. Operators are facing an aggressive rise in overhead costs with very little relief from regulatory bodies.

"The fare hike is not just due to the diesel price rise. A recent 5% increase in toll charges is affecting our margins. Also, we are paying hefty quarterly road taxes ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.9 lakh. Despite this, we have not received any leeway or subsidies from either the state or the central government," Sharma said.

▸ Bus fare, Page 5B

COSTLY RIDE

Fares to rise by **Rs 150-200** for journeys spanning **300-400 km**

- **Short-distance routes (10% hike):** Popular routes from Bengaluru to destinations such as Mangaluru, Udupi, Hassan, Davangere and Ballari will see a 10% jump in ticket pricing.
- **Long-distance routes (20% hike):** Journeys connecting Bengaluru to places like Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, Karwar, Kalaburagi and Vijayapura, as well as cities outside Karnataka, including Chennai, Kochi and Coimbatore, will see a steeper 20% surge.

Govt imposes import curbs on silver to check forex outflow

NEW DELHI, PTI: Within days of levying high customs duties on precious metals, the government on Saturday imposed import curbs on silver by putting the metal under licensed regime for inbound shipments.

The government, on May 13, hiked import duty on precious metals - gold, and silver - from 6% to 15%. The effective duty (including 3% IGST) is over 18%.

It was hiked to control the outflow of forex by curbing non-essential imports.

The import policy for silver, including silver played with gold and platinum, "are revised from free to restricted...with immediate effect", the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification.

Goods under the restricted category need a government licence for imports.

The import curbs, however, will not be applicable for imports by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs), Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units provided such imported goods are not sold in the domestic market.

According to the commerce ministry data, silver imports jumped more than two-fold to $411 million during April. In 2025-26, the imports jumped about 150% to $12 billion due to higher prices. In volume terms, it rose by 42% to 7,334.96 tonnes in the last fiscal.

Silver was priced at around Rs 2.53 lakh per kg. The metal is an essential component in several industries, ranging from electrical switches and solar panels to chemical catalysts and medical equipment.

India's foreign exchange reserves have declined to $690 billion in the week ended May 1 from an all-time high of $728.49 billion during the week ended February 27, before the outbreak of the West Asia war, which has put pressure on the rupee.

New Yelahanka rly terminal to have two-level platforms

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's fifth and largest railway terminal — proposed in Yelahanka — will have platforms at ground and upper levels, a first-of-its-kind facility designed to meet passenger demands for 2045.

On Saturday, Minister of State for Railways V Somanna held a meeting with senior officials from the South Western Railway (SWR) and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to review the ambitious project.

"It will be India's largest railway terminal, with amenities on the basement, ground, first and second floors. This is a historic decision," he said.

Stating that land constraints are holding up the expansion of existing railway stations in Bengaluru — a city that handles two lakh railway passengers every day — Somanna said creating a new terminal was the only option.

This terminal will require land from the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) and the government of India (Rail Wheel Factory), besides private land. We're taking action to expedite land acquisition," he added.

As per the concept note prepared by the SWR, the new terminal will be built on 7.5 acres of land near the RWF in the first phase, about 150-200 metres from Yelahanka Junction towards Dharmavaram. The existing station will be integrated into the new facility.

Costing Rs 5,754 crore, it will have 16 platforms, 18 pit lines and 14 stabling lines. Entrances will be planned in such a way that passengers would not have to walk more than 100 metres to enter or exit the station. "We'll avoid conflicting movements by separating arrivals and departures. There will be railway tracks and platforms on both ground and first levels. This is the most feasible option to address land issues," sources told *DH*.

Following approval from the Railway Board, tenders were called for a Final Location Survey (FLS) for the terminal. "Bids will be opened on May 22, and the contract will be awarded accordingly," the sources said.

After the Railway Board reviews and approves the FLS, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared, paving the way for groundwork to begin, the sources added.

While the Bengaluru railway division handles 300 trains every day and serves 120 million passengers per year, the city is short of 25-30 trains per day.

"By 2045, the city will serve 300 million passengers and need 500 trains. The new terminal will help fufil this demand," the sources said.

This will be the second modern terminal for the city after SMVT Bengaluru. The other major stations are KSR Bengaluru, Yeshwantpur and Bengaluru Cantonment.

▸ Yelahanka, Page 5B

Bengaluru's new terminal

- Platforms at ground and **upper levels**
- Will be built on **7.5 acres** near the RWF in 1st phase
- Located about **150-200 metres** from Yelahanka Junction station
- Will cost **Rs 5,754 crore**
- Terminal will have **16 platforms, 18 pit lines** and **14 stabling lines**

Iran preparing Hormuz shipping mechanism; Pak minister lands in Tehran

TEHRAN/DUBAI, AGENCIES: Iran has prepared a mechanism to manage traffic through the Strait of Hormuz along a designated route that will be unveiled soon, the head of the Iranian parliament's national security committee Ebrahim Azizi said on Saturday.

Azizi added that only commercial vessels and parties cooperating with Iran would benefit from the arrangement. He said fees would be collected for specialised services provided under the mechanism.

In a related development, Iranian state television said that European countries were in talks with Tehran over transit for ships through the strait.

"Following the passage of ships from East Asian countries, notably China, Japan and Pakistan, we received information today indicating that Europeans have also begun negotiations with the Revolutionary Guards navy" to get permission to pass, state television reported.

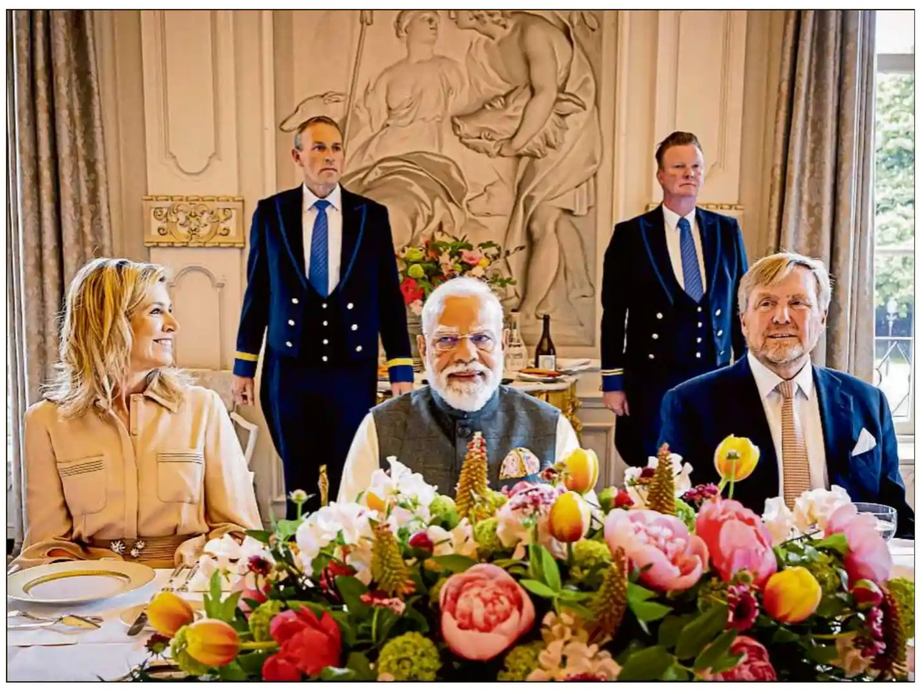
Iran has largely blocked shipping through the vital strait since the outbreak of war with the United States and Israel on February 28.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held talks on Saturday with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran on bilateral ties and regional developments amidst Islamabad's mediation efforts to end the US-Iran conflict.

Naqvi, who reached Tehran earlier in the day for a two-day official visit, was received at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Eskandar Mo'meni, Iran's semi-official news agency Tasnim said.

The two interior ministers held a bilateral meeting during which they engaged in detailed discussions on Iran-Pakistan relations and the prospects for the resumption of peace negotiations, the news agency said.

ROYAL RECEPTION



Netherlands' King Willem-Alexander (R) and Queen Maxima host Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a lunch at Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague on Saturday. AFP

India's aspirations 'no longer limited to its borders': Modi in Netherlands

THE HAGUE, AGENCIES: Describing India as a "land of opportunities", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the country is undergoing an "unprecedented transformation" and its aspirations are "no longer limited to its borders".

Addressing the Indian community in the Netherlands capital, the Prime Minister also said that India is dreaming big and its youth aspires to reach the sky.

In the presence of Modi, Dutch tech giant ASML signed a deal with Tata Electronics to help build and scale up a semi-conductor plant in Gujarat. ASML makes cutting-edge machines to manufacture semi-conductors.

Details on Page 7

POWER WOES

Rising consumption costs 7L consumers Gruha Jyothi benefits

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

More than seven lakh households registered under the Gruha Jyothi scheme in Bescom limits are losing benefits because they exceed their set limit, data accessed by *DH* shows.

Of the 76.58 lakh registered households, only 69.46 lakh are receiving reduced power bills. Data was available until January 2026, and many more could have been left out during the summer months since power consumption usually increases from February.

Although the scheme promised 200 units of free power, the government later decided to calculate eligible limits based on the average one-year consumption.

'Entitlement' problem

1. Average consumption of each household over a one-yr period was calculated for fixing entitled units
2. Only these units were free and consumption over it but below 200 were charged for extra units
3. Any household using over 200 units has to pay for all the 200 units or more used.
4. With consumption rising, many who initially received benefit don't get it now

When the scheme was launched in 2023, the average consumption of every household over a one-year period was calculated for fixing the entitled units.

With power consumption increasing in households over the last three years, many who initially received the benefit have now been left out.

While many have crossed the 200-unit limit, others under the sub-200-unit limit are also not able to reap the complete benefits due to the difference between eligible units and their present consumption.

"Power consumption for every household has been increasing as the standard of living also improves. This must be accounted for. For instance, as the heat increased, we wanted to buy an air-conditioner, we will want to update our refrigerator. However, even after this, we fall within the 200 units since we do not use them extensively. Now, our eligible units are only 113 units and we consume close to 190 units. If 200 free units were promised, should we not be eligible for it?" said Vasanth L, a resident of Rajajinagar.

Citizens who moved into rented homes or those who constructed new houses are also left out of the scheme or receive minimum benefits.

"We finished construction in late 2023 and were hoping that our average consumption would be calculated by 2024. However, there is no update and even though we consume only about 140 units, we have to pay for close to 100 units," said Pavan K, a resident of Bashyam Nagar.

▸ Gruha Jyothi, Page 5B

Quickly

State gets 1,122 additional medical seats

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Saturday announced that the state has been allocated an additional 1,122 medical seats, offering a golden opportunity for aspiring healthcare professionals. Addressing a press conference held at Vidhana Soudha, Patil said Karnataka remains at the forefront in the field of medical education in the country.

Details on Page 5A

Bandi Sanjay son taken into custody

Cyberabad police took Bandi Sai Bageerath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay, into custody on Saturday night in connection with a Pocso case registered against him. Cyberabad commissioner of police P Ramesh Reddy said Bageerath was arrested at TGPA junction in Narsingi and shifted to Pet Basheerabad police station. Sanjay, however, said his son had surrendered to the police through their lawyers.

Details on Page 6

3-language study for CBSE Class 9

Students in Classes 9 and 10 will now compulsorily have to opt for a third language, beginning July, with two being native Indian languages, a notification issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education issued Friday stated.

Details on Page 6

Indus: India rejects Hague tribunal award

India on Saturday trashed a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague regarding certain hydel projects in Kashmir which Pakistan had objected to under the Indus Waters Treaty.

Details on Page 6

Monsoon advances into Arabian Sea

The southwest monsoon has advanced into parts of the southeast Arabian Sea, southwest and southeast Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea, the entire Nicobar Islands and parts of the Andaman Islands, including Sri Vijaya Puram, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

Hamas' military wing leader killed

An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed the leader of Hamas' military wing who was one of the last surviving architects of the attacks that triggered the war in late 2023, the Israeli military said Saturday. Hamas confirmed the death. Izz al-Din al-Haddad was killed on Friday, Israel's army said.

Details on Page 8

Muslims' meet seeks political representation

A federation of Muslim organisations in Karnataka on Saturday adopted a three-tier "charter of demands" seeking immediate legal, political and welfare measures from the Congress government, including restoration of 4% reservation for Muslims under Category 2B, repeal of the anti-conversion and cattle slaughter laws, protection against voter deletions, and enhanced political representation.

Details on Page 5B

Court: Abetment by TCS POSH member

A court in Maharashtra's Nashik has denied bail to TCS site head and POSH committee member Ashwini Chainani noting that she 'ignored' the complaint of a victim in the alleged sexual harassment-conversion case, and thus 'abetted' the crime.

Azam Khan sentenced to 2 years in jail

A court in this Uttar Pradesh district sentenced Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan to two years of imprisonment on Saturday in a case related to objectionable remarks made against government officials during the 2019 Lok Sabha poll campaign.

Bengaluru Sunday, May 17, 2026 Pages 24 Vol 79 No 136 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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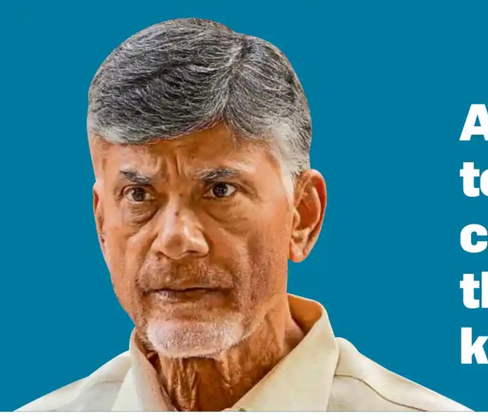


Andhra to reward couples for third, fourth kids

P6

Big Picture

The access divide

Even as the country struggles to become 'purple aware', persons with disabilities are building their lives through a mix of resilience and technology

Page15

Smoke, dust and neglect: Koppal chokes from industrial pollution

A dense cluster of red-category industries accused of flouting norms and lacking buffer zones has fuelled environmental and health crises in Koppal's villages

ANITHA PAILOOR
KOPPAL, DHNS

Twenty-five-year-old Manjula Nekar has barely been able to speak for the past week due to a severe throat infection. Doctors have linked her condition to constant exposure to industrial dust and smoke. Over the past four years, she has suffered from persistent coughs — sometimes with blood-stained phlegm, respiratory infections and recurring colds. Her health troubles began about a year after she moved to Hirebaganal village in Koppal district following her marriage.

Residents say the reason is obvious: 24 large red-category industries operate within a five-kilometre radius of the village, including 13 sponge iron units known for high emissions and pollution levels.

A sponge iron plant produces direct reduced iron used in steelmaking, mainly through coal-based rotary kilns. These plants can cause pollution through emissions such as particulate matter, CO, CO_2, SO_2 and NOx, besides generating char and ash that may contaminate air and land if poorly managed.

Twenty-four large red-category industries operate within a five-km radius of Hirebaganal village in Koppal district. DH PHOTOS /S PRASHANTH

INSIGHT

The Central Pollution Control Board has classified red-category industries as highly polluting units with a pollution index score of 60 or above, requiring strict regulatory controls.

However, multiple field visits by various government departments indicate that several industries in the area, set up over the past three decades, have been flouting norms and contaminating the air, water and soil, with little effective monitoring or regulation in place.

Hirebaganal is not alone. More than 50,000 people in over 20 villages of Koppal taluk live amid black soot, white ash, grey smoke and strong chemical odours almost every day, except during the rainy season when the dust settles and remains suspended in the air for shorter periods.

The dense clustering of industries near farms and residential areas, coupled with the absence of adequate buffer zones in many cases, has further worsened the situation. Despite recommendations from an expert committee a year ago, the state government has yet to commission a comprehensive study or environmental impact assessment to determine the full extent of the industrial impact on the region.

At least five of Manjula's 13-member family suffer from ailments that doctors, they say, have linked to industrial pollution. Her nine-month-old baby has developed a skin infection, while her husband, Raghavendra Nekar, recently underwent a surgical procedure for sinusitis.

Many of Hirebaganal's around 2,300 residents suffer from exposure-linked illnesses and allergies, including respiratory, skin and eye problems.

▸ Koppal pollution, Page 2

Watch the ground report from Koppal

Great Nicobar project and the cost of scale

KALYAN RAY

The SUNDAY STORY

For close to a decade, the Narendra Modi government has championed the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project as a mega-investment initiative that will establish India as a major player in the international shipping business. The plan envisions a transshipment port, which would boost the economy and attract tourists to the tiny island.

Notably, none of the planning documents prepared by the Union government and the NITI Aayog suggest any underlying strategic considerations.

Yet, as criticism of the plan escalates, efforts are being made to create a new narrative on the importance of the GNI project highlighting its military significance in the Indian Ocean region where China is the dominant player. Such narratives treat the transshipment port mostly as an afterthought and never discuss whether the Union government has explored other military options to monitor the crucial Malacca Strait and the Six Degree Channel.

A transshipment port is a maritime transit hub where cargo containers are unloaded from large ocean-going vessels (mother ships) and reloaded onto smaller vessels (feeder ships) — and vice versa — to reach their final destination. Since ultra-large container ships require exceptionally deep water and extensive port infrastructure, they can dock only at a limited number of strategically located hub ports rather than at smaller regional ports.

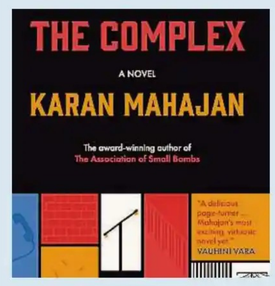
Historically, most of the country's transshipment cargo is routed through foreign hubs like Colombo (Sri Lanka), Singapore, Dubai (UAE) and Port Klang (Malaysia).

▸ The GNI project, Page 2

Travel
Page17

Ode to beauty
From colourful shikaras gliding on Dal Lake to the many Mughal-style gardens, Srinagar is sheer poetry

Books
Page16


THE COMPLEX
A NOVEL
KARAN MAHAJAN
The award-winning author of
The Association of Small Bombs
"A delicious page-turner... Mahajan's most exciting virtuosic novel yet." VAUHINIVARA

Not quite there
Karan Mahajan's much-anticipated novel encompasses multiple points of view, but there's a hollowness at its core

Food & Drink
Page18

Breakfast stories

Take a deep dive into India's morning meal culture and what it tells us about cities and communities

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Govt of India

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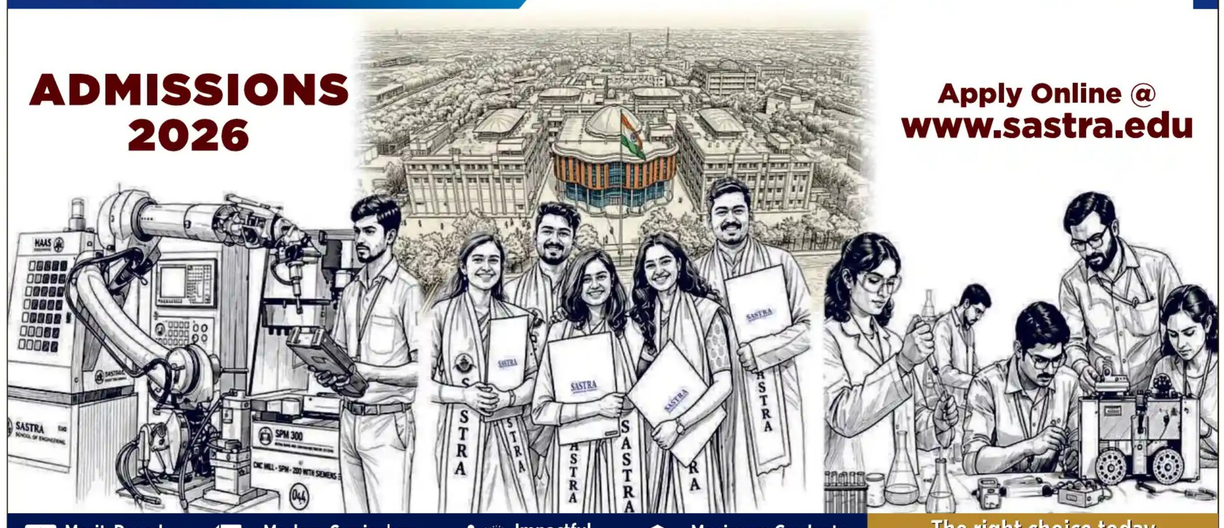

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Industrial growth, toxic reality

Around 28 sponge iron and iron-processing units operate in Koppal district

The sector has attracted investments of about Rs 4,683 cr and generated employment for nearly 7,000 people

There are 24 large red-category industries in the five kilometre radius of Hirebaganal village, including 13 sponge iron units

Toxic emissions from these highly polluting industries are affecting public health, livelihoods and local ecosystems in more than 20 villages, as well as in Koppal and Bhagyanagar towns

Despite repeated complaints from people and notices of proposed directions by Pollution Control Board, pollution remains unchecked

The government is yet to commission a comprehensive study on the industrial pollution in the region

Little action from government

Koppal pollution, from Page 1

As Gavisiddamma Palleda (55) puts it, "We can see dust accumulating in our houses and surroundings, but no one knows how many layers of black soot have settled in our lungs and other organs."

While residents travel to hospitals in Koppal town when illnesses become severe, most rely on self-medication for everyday health problems or consult the village's only qualified doctor, an Ayurvedic practitioner.

The village has three medical shops, reflecting the scale of the health crisis. "Over 80% buy medicines for asthma and dry cough," says Prahallad, proprietor of a shop.

A polluting industry located just next to two neighbouring schools in Hirebaganal is affecting children's health, with many reporting eye and skin allergies as well as respiratory problems. "If we don't eat immediately, a layer of black dust settles on our midday meals as well," says Radhika, a student.

Toxic emissions and effluents from industries have severely affected the health, livelihoods, social lives and environment of Halavarthi, Kunikeri, Kunikeri Tanda, Ginigera, Allanagar, Kasanakandi, Chikkabaganal, Lachanakeri, Kidadal, Basapur, Kanakapura and many other villages. The impact has also spread to parts of Koppal town, which lies within a 10-km radius of the factories and has a population of over one lakh.

> The proposed project of Baldota Steel and Power Limited is being developed as a modern, integrated steel and power plant incorporating advanced technologies, energy-efficient systems and robust environmental safeguards. Baldota Group already operates a pellet plant in the region with compliant pollution-control systems and environmental safeguards in accordance with regulatory norms.
>
> **Mahesh Mankare,** Spokesperson, Baldota Group

Livelihoods under strain

Sharanappa of Kasanakandi has tried multiple crops over the years — from traditionally cultivated pulses and vegetables to maize, cotton and now papaya — but none have yielded well or fetched a good price, as dust has affected both cultivation and saleability. He says, "Forget consuming what we grow, we can't even harvest it, as black dust settles over plants, leaves and the produce."

This year, despite a good yield, his entire six-acre papaya crop went unsold as the fruit was coated with black soot. "I have no crop left to grow now," he says. The cropping patterns in these villages have changed considerably, but the situation remains largely unaddressed.

Gavisiddappa Reddy of Halavarthi village adds that they have to buy fodder from distant places, as the grass grown in these villages cannot be fed to cattle. "Even storing fodder is difficult," he says.

Mahesh Vadnal of Hirebaganal says that soot-laden fodder has proved fatal to cattle on several occasions. He adds that livestock rearing—including cattle, goats and sheep—has declined significantly in these villages.

For over a decade, the district administration, the regional office of the pollution control board, and the agriculture, veterinary and horticulture departments in Koppal have received numerous complaints from farmers and residents about health issues, contamination of natural resources and losses to crops and livestock. Subsequent field visits have confirmed these concerns. A recent agriculture department survey showed poor photosynthesis and soil degradation could reduce crop yields by up to 40% due to crop damage and lower harvest quality.

Ad hoc approach

Responding to a question by the Member of Legislative Council Hemalatha Nayak in the state legislative council in 2024, Industries Minister M B Patil stated that the absence of a buffer zone and the proximity of non-point air pollution sources to farmlands and villages were major causes of pollution. The statement also listed 12 industries that had been issued Notices of Proposed Directions (NPD) under the Water Act and the Air Act, on November 2, 2023.

However, there is little clarity on the subsequent action taken, with sources indicating that it may not have been implemented within the stipulated timeframe. Meanwhile, a representative of a company to which an NPD was issued told *DH* that their company implemented all suggested measures within the stipulated time.

Notably, five of these 12 companies also appear in the State Pollution Control Board's April 9, 2026 list of companies recommended to issue closure directions. State Pollution Control Board Chairperson P M Narendra Swamy stated that NPDs have been issued to non-complying industries.

"The polluters clearly ignored government directions, exposing the administration's ad hoc approach and failure to enforce norms. Farmers have been protesting industrial pollution since 2008, yet the government still lacks the will to protect thousands of lives," says well-known writer Allamaprabhu Bettadur, who has been leading a sit-in protest in Koppal for nearly 200 days.

The fight against unabated pollution gained momentum in 2025 after the Baldota Group signed an agreement with the state government at the Global Investors Meet in Bengaluru, announcing a Rs 54,000 crore investment to produce 10.5 million tonnes of steel annually. The project has since been put on hold following government orders. Around the same time, Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited also proposed a Rs 3,025 crore investment. Both companies already operate units in the region, adding to concerns over further industrial expansion in a heavily polluted cluster.

Some other companies are also moving ahead with investments and industrial expansion in the region. RTI data accessed by *DH* shows that Vanya Steels Private Limited — which appears in both the 2023 NPD list and the 2026 list of units recommended for closure directions — received environmental clearance in September 2025 to expand its sponge iron plant into an integrated steel plant, increasing its operational area and production capacity.

An expert committee had earlier recommended a joint rapid-environmental impact assessment study for the cluster and advised against granting any further expansion to existing sponge iron and steel units until the study is completed.

Initial optimism

Industrialisation picked up pace in Koppal after it was carved out of Raichur district in 1998 for administrative purposes. Over the years, more than 200 small, medium and large industries have been established in Koppal taluk itself. Industrialisation was seen as an opportunity for Koppal, one of the state's economically backward districts, to grow.

The region's proximity to iron-ore-rich belts, along with the availability of land and abundant water from the Tungabhadra river, attracted steel, pellet and sponge iron industries to Hirebaganal and surrounding villages. Residents say they were initially hopeful that these industries would bring employment and new opportunities. While some found direct or indirect employment, the optimism was short-lived.

Gavisiddappa Putagi, who is leading the fight in Hirebaganal, worked in multiple companies before developing a persistent cough, which forced him to quit his job and return to agriculture. By then, he had realised that it was not only those working in the industries who were affected, but also people living around them. His 73-year-old father has tuberculosis (TB), and both neighbouring households also report TB cases. He had to send his six-year-old daughter to stay with her maternal grandparents for a year when she fell ill. "We may have to move elsewhere if she falls sick again," he says.

In neighbouring Ginigera, activist Mangalesh Rathod says about 30% of residents have shifted to Koppal town or Hosapete as pollution became unbearable, a pattern seen in other affected villages as well.

Like many villages, Ginigera has about four industries visible from almost any point. An industry insider said that lack of distance between industries has made it difficult to come up with a viable solution.

High density

Koppal District Bachao Andolan co-convener Mallikarjun B Gonal says that a majority of these industries have come up in non-notified industrial areas. "Industry owners have set up units on private agricultural land after securing permissions through the state government's Single Window Clearance System. Only a few companies have acquired land through Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board." He adds that elected representatives and government officials have failed to raise farmers' concerns in any forum.

"Though the region is suitable for steel and allied industries that generate employment, pollution control norms are poorly enforced by the government agencies. Industries must invest in proper systems and authorities must ensure strict compliance," said K C Siddappa, former chief executive officer of SLR Metaliks, a steel manufacturer in Hosapete.

Meanwhile, when *DH* sought ambient air quality data near the industries from the mobile continuous ambient air quality monitoring station at the Koppal office of the Pollution Control Board, it was found that comprehensive data was not available.

Corrective measures

In response to a complaint by entrepreneur and politician C V Chandrashekar, a team constituted by the Union Environment Ministry conducted an inspection of 14 industries in the region and identified lapses in their functioning.

Their report noted that some industries have not maintained buffer zones; in others, effluents and emissions are not treated as per legal requirements; raw materials are not consistently covered; and conveyor belts are sometimes damaged. The team also raised concerns about the efficiency of air pollution control devices such as electrostatic precipitators (ESPs) and bag filters used to manage black dust generated from iron, steel and other raw materials.

> Based on the recommendations of the technical committee, notices of proposed directions have been issued to polluting industries. They will be given an opportunity to respond and comply with the prescribed norms. Strict action will be taken if they fail to comply.
>
> **P M Narendra Swamy** Chairperson, KSPCB

Villagers allege that industrial smoke thickens during the night and it is common for people to wake up to persistent coughs in the wee hours.

According to Siddappa, industries often avoid adequate investment in pollution-control systems due to the high capital and operation and maintenance costs involved. Although Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems are mandated in sponge iron units, their operational reliability varies in practice. "Pollution-control costs can account for a significant share of production expenses, typically in the range of 5–15%," he says.

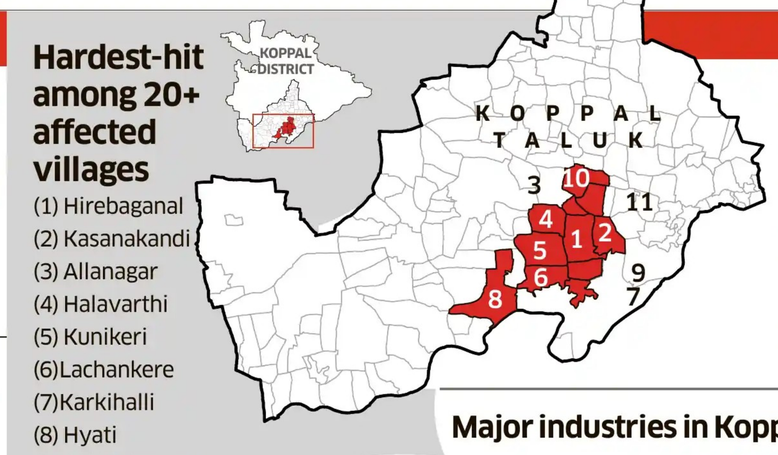
The expert committee report also recommends creating new industrial zones with adequate buffer areas exclusively for sponge iron units, and the phased relocation of existing industries near Hirebaganal and Allanagar to reduce environmental impact and prevent pollution in nearby villages.

A year has passed since these recommendations were made, but action remains at the planning and contemplation stage.

Villagers say they are exhausted by repeated surveys without leading to action. "How long will it take for the government to pass an order for an in-depth study? Are we being ignored by the administration because we are far from the power centre?" asks Hemavathi Poojar of Kunikeri Tanda.

Her experience illustrates the frustration behind her words. It has been more than 18 months since she complained to the administration about crop loss caused by an industry located 500 metres from her farm. Following her complaint, the regional office of the Pollution Control Board directed the company to provide compensation as per the Deputy Commissioner's orders. However, she is yet to receive any compensation.

As thick smoke continues to cover the morning sky and relief remains distant, residents are losing hope but continue to assert their right to life and livelihoods.



Hardest-hit among 20+ affected villages

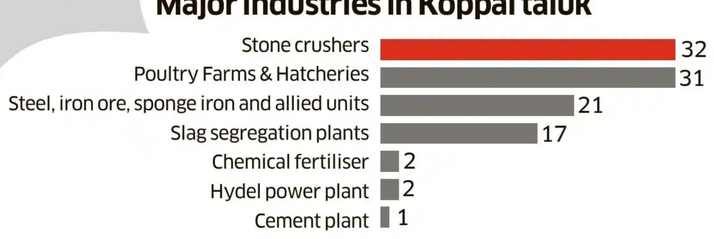
(1) Hirebaganal
(2) Kasanakandi
(3) Allanagar
(4) Halavarthi
(5) Kunikeri
(6)Lachankere
(7)Karkihalli
(8) Hyati
(9) Chikkabaganal
(10) Ginigera
(11) Kanakapura

IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

- Dust accumulation on farmlands harms soil quality and crops
- Black soot coats plants, affecting photosynthesis
- Soot reduces crop quality, causing farmers to lose up to 40% of their income due to unsold or low-priced produce

- People are migrating to nearby towns in search of better livelihoods

Major industries in Koppal taluk


Stone crushers 32
Poultry Farms & Hatcheries 31
Steel, iron ore, sponge iron and allied units 21
Slag segregation plants 17
Chemical fertiliser 2
Hydel power plant 2
Cement plant 1

> I have taken note of the pollution issue in Hirebaganal. We will act in accordance with the State Pollution Control Board's decision and take immediate necessary measures against polluting industries.
>
> **Shivaraj Tangadagi** Koppal Dist In-charge Minister

> We will take action once the State Pollution Control Board issues its directions. The Environment Ministry's expert committee has recommended both short-term and long-term measures, and we have initiated steps to implement them.
>
> **Dr Suresh B Itnal,** Dy Commissioner, Koppal

> More than 20 villages in Koppal district are in distress due to pollution. Reports say five industries are currently causing severe pollution. Instructions have been issued to inspect industrial units and, if found polluting, close them down as per rules.
>
> **Eshwar B Khandre** Karnataka Environment Minister

> Farmers in villages surrounding the factories are struggling to cultivate crops, as the dust and pollution released from the factories are adversely affecting the soil, water and crops.
>
> **G D Krishnamurthy** Joint Director of Agriculture, Koppal

Common health issues faced by villagers

- Chronic bronchitis
- Cough
- Phlegm buildup
- Asthma
- Skin disorders
- Respiratory problems
- Tuberculosis
- Eye problems

Sponge iron production in India

India leads global sponge iron production with **55.6 MT** in 2024–25

The sector contributes nearly **2%** to GDP

Sponge iron plants are concentrated in Odisha, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal

A high carbon footprint

Coal-based **sponge iron production** is highly energy-intensive

Its high carbon footprint limits the sector's alignment with India's climate goals of a **45%** emissions reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2070

Nearly **98%** of energy in coal-based Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) plants in India comes from thermal sources, while only 2% is derived from electricity

> We will convene a meeting to discuss the recommendations of the expert committee constituted by the Union Environment Ministry and initiate necessary steps. Industries established through the single-window clearance system obtained all required permissions before setting up their plants. The government will take appropriate action against industries that violate the prescribed norms.
>
> **M B Patil** Karnataka Industries Minister

Red category industries

The Central Pollution Control Board classifies industries with a pollution index of 60 and above as red-category units. The index is assessed based on air pollution (40 points), water pollution (40 points) and hazardous waste generation (20 points)

12 Industries in Koppal taluk which were given Notices of Proposed Directions under the Water Act and the Air Act in 2023

5 Industries in Koppal district which have been listed for closure orders in 2026

Major demands

The expansion plans of Baldota Steel and Power Limited must be completely halted

- Untreated wastewater from factories discharged in large quantities into the Tungabhadra river must be stopped
- The 13 sponge iron industries causing pollution in Hirebaganal and nearby villages must be relocated, as recommended by the competent authority
- The environmental impact should be assessed by the IISc
- A health survey of residents across 22 villages affected by industrial pollution should be conducted
- A special package must be announced for the 22 affected villages

The way forward

- An environment impact assessment should be commissioned
- Industries, in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board, must implement a robust air pollution mitigation plan
- Solid waste must be scientifically disposed of
- Pollution control devices must be regularly maintained and monitored
- Water conservation measures for dust suppression should be adopted along with a shift to cleaner energy sources
- Measures, including local monitoring committees and night patrols, should be implemented
- Designated industrial zones with buffer areas should be developed

Pollution hotspots: Sponge iron plants threaten villages and farms

- SO_2 — Most sponge iron industries emit particulate matter and gaseous emissions such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides
- CO_2 — They release dust from fixed sources like stacks, and fugitive emissions from material handling, and transportation
- Many plants lack the technical competence and financial capacity to install or properly operate pollution control equipment
- Many plants release toxic, unfiltered air at night, affecting areas up to five kilometres away
- Many of the non-point air pollution sources (multiple sources) are located dangerously close to agricultural lands and residential villages
- Many units operate without buffer zones

Source: Karnataka Legislative Council proceedings, letter written to MoEF by JD(S) leader C V Chandrashekhar, An expert committee report by the MoEF team, IIT Kharagpur report titled 'Recommendations for Decarbonizing the Coal-Based Rotary Kiln Steel Sector in India', Pollution Control Board, media reports

Compiled by Anitha Pailoor and Divyashri Mudakavi
DH Infographics: Ramu Mastaiah

The GNI project, from Page 1

Ambition, environment, security: Walking the tightrope

The transshipment port at GNI was proposed because of the 10-15 metres of natural water depth close to the shore, which supports ultra-large container ships, and its proximity to the East-West international shipping corridor. The objective was to create a cargo hub that will attract the traffic currently going to Sri Lanka, Singapore and Malaysia.

To support the hub, the plan included an airport, power plant, township, road network and other amenities. The only military component is the airport, intended to be a dual use facility.

No alternate ideas?

While no one can deny the strategic importance of the Great Nicobar Island, the unanswered question is: whether the Modi government gave adequate considerations to alternate ideas before finalising the GNI plan?

In an analysis, Rear Admiral Sudhir Pillai (Rtd), a former Flag Officer of the Indian Navy, asked whether comparative assessments had been conducted for sites such as Galathea Bay, Campbell Bay, Nancowry Harbour and a Campbell Bay–Sabang distributed model, and whether commercial feasibility studies had benchmarked GNI against regional competitors like Vizhinjam, Vadhavan, Matarbari, Patimban and Tuas Port.

He also questioned whether a military utility analysis had distinguished the requirements of a dual-use air and hardened naval facility from those of a 16-million-TEU commercial mega-hub, and whether GNI has a green bunkering strategy aligned with the International Maritime Organization's net-zero emissions target for shipping by 2050, without which the port may struggle to attract customers by the time it reaches peak operations.

"None of these analyses appear, in structured form, in the publicly available planning record. The public record reads less like an analysis leading to a conclusion and more like a conclusion progressively surrounded by just enough analysis to satisfy formal requirements," Rear Admiral Pillai wrote.

Ever since the project gained momentum, environmentalists, rights activists and opposition parties have accused the government of violating environmental, forest, and wildlife clearance norms, as well as failing to comply with the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Nearly three weeks ago, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited the Great Nicobar island and met Nicobarese representatives and activists who raised concerns over displacement, ecological destruction and the impact on indigenous tribal communities, especially the Shompen tribe.

Subsequently, the opposition party intensified its attack on the Centre, calling the project an "ecologically disastrous" and "strategically opaque" exercise being pushed through without adequate consultation or safeguards. In two separate letters, former Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh flagged violations of regulatory norms.

"Studies, based on which environmental clearance has been granted, are not even rapid EIAs (environmental impact assessment), and are based on baseline data collection over a few days and weeks at best and are grossly inadequate. These reports are an insult to science and make a mockery of the EIA process," Ramesh wrote.

Judicial review

In a setback for the government, the Calcutta High Court earlier this month agreed to hear three public interest litigations alleging violation of forest rights to tribals while granting the clearance. Rejecting the government's objections, the HC noted that such projects would remain subject to judicial review because the Nicobar tribal population is a "very vulnerable tribal group."

The Union Government, on its part, has strongly defended the project, arguing that it is of "great national importance" and essential for India's maritime security, transshipment ambitions and Indo-Pacific strategy. In the wake of Rahul's visit, the Centre issued two press notes stating that the GNI project aims to transform the island into a strategic maritime and economic hub, while asserting that environmental norms are being followed. None have the answers to the questions raised by the critics so far.

There are more unanswered questions. GNI has a naval air station, INS Baaz and a natural harbour at Campbell Bay, facing the Malacca Strait. "For years, the A&N Command has pleaded for extending the runway & upgrading of the harbour to host large aircraft and ships, but to no avail," says Admiral Arun Prakash, former Chief of the Naval Staff.

"For years, the Nicobarese living in tsunami relief colonies have been writing repeatedly to the authorities expressing their wish to return to their ancestral, traditional lands and requesting the administration to facilitate their return. Nothing has come of these requests," notes Ramesh.

Even without drilling a single hole, the estimated project cost has gone up to more than Rs 92,000 crore. Since everything — from cement and steel to labours and workers — need to be taken and sheltered on the island for a long time, the project cost is sure to rise further manifold. Natural factors like monsoon, sea current and seismic risks would further add to the cost.

Would it not be wise for the Centre to undertake wider discussions and threadbare analysis before execution? Or would the Modi government adopt a *Char Dham*–like approach, where environmental concerns were set aside in court proceedings through last-minute national security arguments, even though military considerations were not part of the original plan? Only time can answer.

Woman follows garment worker from ATM, escapes with cash

BENGALURU, DHNS: An unidentified woman followed a garment factory employee from an ATM and escaped with Rs 10,000 in cash, an ATM card and Aadhaar card in an attention-diversion theft in Madanayakanahalli, police said.

Latha (47), a resident of Dasanapura, visited an ATM around 7 pm on Thursday. As she did not know how to operate the ATM, she sought assistance from an unidentified woman who was present inside the kiosk.

The woman helped her withdraw Rs 10,000 and returned the cash and ATM card to the complainant. Later, Latha went to a nearby shop to purchase groceries and boarded an autorickshaw to return home. However, due to heavy traffic congestion, she got down from the auto and started walking towards her house.

At that point, Latha noticed that the same woman from the ATM had followed her and approached her in conversation on the pretext of asking for directions to Lakshmipura. The woman allegedly insisted Latha accompany her for some distance to show the route. When Latha refused, the suspect allegedly made a phone call and continued speaking loudly in the Uttara Kannada dialect and diverted her attention before escaping with her purse containing Rs 10,000 cash, debit card and Aadhaar card.

Based on the complaint, Madanayakanahalli police are examining CCTV footage from the ATM kiosk and surrounding areas to identify the accused.

Serving BMTC staff get 11 months' arrears

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) on Saturday credited 11 months' salary arrears to its current officers and employees.

The state government has approved paying Rs 1,271.92 crore in arrears related to the 2020 salary hike for officers and employees of the four Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) for the period from January 1, 2021, to February 28, 2023, covering a total of 26 months.

For this, the government recently released Rs 450 crore, including Rs 137.24 crore to the BMTC. The BMTC on Saturday paid arrears for 11 months, from January 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021, to its serving officers and employees.

Eligible officers and employees who worked during this period and have since retired, taken voluntary retirement, been dismissed, died or resigned will receive their arrears on May 21.

Officers and employees who worked during the same period and were transferred to other corporations/institutions will have their arrears transferred to the respective organisations on May 22, the BMTC said.

GBA chief tells protesters 'Go to court' as citizens oppose tunnel road

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hundreds of citizens, students and activists on Saturday gathered at Corporation Circle to protest the proposed Hebbal–Silk Board underground tunnel, pressing the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) for answers on environmental, financial and procedural concerns.

Mobilised by COLLECTIVE Bangalore, FridaysForFuture Karnataka and AISA Karnataka, demonstrators travelled by public buses from the north and south ends of the proposed tunnel corridor and submitted a memorandum with over 1,000 digital and physical signatures. The petition questioned the project's ecological basis, alleged bypassing of statutory planning bodies and warned of harm to groundwater and green spaces such as Lalbagh.

A delegation met GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, who defended the project and dismissed calls for wider consultation.

He said public consultations are not legally mandatory for such projects and argued the tunnel would benefit 40 lakh car owners. He rejected independent studies that suggest tunnels do little to ease long-term congestion and declined calls for an Environmental Impact Assessment, asserting the project would have zero negative impact on environment or flooding, according to a press release issued by the organisers.

On fiscal concerns, Rao told protesters: "But you are not bearing the cost. If you cannot pay for the tunnel, do not use the tunnel," and urged opponents to seek judicial remedy: "Implead yourself in court. There are many cases."

Vijayendra ditches convoy for metro ride

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Friday ditched his official convoy and opted to travel via Namma Metro to attend a party event.

In a bid to endorse Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationwide call for fuel conservation and austerity measures, Karnataka BJP president and MLA B Y Vijayendra on Friday ditched his official convoy and opted to travel by Namma Metro to attend a party event.

Vijayendra arrived at the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station (Majestic) like a regular commuter, stood in line to purchase a ticket, and boarded a train toward Kengeri on the Purple Line.

He was en route to Kumbalgodu to participate in the BJP Bengaluru South 'Prashikshana Varga' (training workshop). Speaking to reporters during his transit, Vijayendra emphasised that leaders must lead by example.

"The prime minister has given a clear call to the nation to focus on fuel conservation and adopt austerity measures in light of global economic challenges. PM Modi himself has reduced his protocol-related vehicle usage. As the state party president and a responsible citizen, it is my duty to follow suit," he said.

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A file photo of Anila Bhagya kits.

Anila Bhagya: 'Limited health gains after LPG shift'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Roughly one in seven households that adopted LPG for cooking under the state government's Anila Bhagya scheme reported a family member suffering from a respiratory disease, a study has found.

The study, published by the government in March, evaluated the Mukhya Mantri Anila Bhagya Yojane (MMABY).

Under first phase, MMABY reached 98.7% out of the targeted one lakh households. Each household received an LPG connection, a two-burner stove and first refill free of cost. The study, done by Bihar-based TransRural Consulting, covered 4,018 beneficiaries from 2017-2024. Of the 14.5% of households that reported respiratory illnesses, only 24.2% observed noticeable improvements after shifting to LPG.

"This suggests that although LPG has the potential to reduce smoke-related ailments, health benefits may not materialize immediately or may be moderated, by continued exposure to traditional fuels," the study said.

In Bengaluru division, 16.2% of respondents reported respiratory illnesses among their family members.

"This figure suggests that despite LPG adoption, health impacts from past or continued use of traditional fuels remain a concern," the study said. In Mysuru division, this figure was 15.2%. Prevalence of respiratory illness was the highest in the Belagavi division at 22%.

"In Kalaburagi division, only 2.9% of respondents reported such illnesses, the lowest across all divisions. This unusually low figure contrasts with the division's high reliance on fuel stacking, raising questions about underreporting or differing perceptions of respiratory conditions among households," the study said.

The study also found that eye-related health issues were relatively common among MMABY beneficiary households even after adopting cleaner cooking fuels. "Statewide, 31.3% of respondents reported eye irritation, redness, watering or burning sensation among family members," it said. "This prevalence is consistent across all four divisions: 32% in Bengaluru, 31.4% in Belagavi, 30.5% in Kalaburagi and 31.6% in Mysuru, indicating that smoke-induced eye problems are a widespread health concern."

Nearly half of the beneficiary households depend on agriculture and another 41% on daily wage labour, making monthly cash-flow erratic, the study said.

"In such circumstances, families tend to conserve the LPG for certain meals and revert to cheaper traditional fuels when possible," it said.

"This indicates that cultural attachment to traditional *chulha* fires is not the primary obstacle in Karnataka, rather it is the poverty-driven trade-off".

REACH SANS RIGOURS Planners for seamless access to, clutter-free infra around new facility

KIA went above its head, city hopes its 2nd airport won't

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's proposed second airport is being framed as an answer to the city's future aviation needs.

As passenger traffic at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) continues to rise sharply, planners argue that another airport is inevitable for a metropolis expected to expand further in the next two decades. But beneath the aviation narrative lies a larger and more pertinent urban question: has Bengaluru learnt anything from the way the city grew around its first airport?

'Yes' is the instinctive answer, but for a burgeoning city, there are far too many metrics to consider.

Beyond aircraft movement or passenger capacity, the second airport is about the model of urban expansion Bengaluru continues to pursue.

The city risks repeating the same planning failures that followed the development of KIA in the north: development heavily driven by speculative real estate, while public transport, drainage, roads and civic services struggle to keep pace.

While Industries Minister M B Patil told *DH* that the second airport was being planned to accommodate the city's growth and has little to do with the existing airport's shortcomings, urban experts feel it is prudent to learn from mistakes.

Before Kempegowda international airport (KIA) opened in 2008, Bengaluru's aviation needs were handled by the HAL airport in the heart of the city.

As air traffic surged alongside IT boom, the airport struggled with limited runway capacity, congestion and restrictions on expansion.

With no alternative route to the airport, everyone from everywhere ends up at Hebbal, creating a major chokepoint. DH FILE PHOTO

New learnings, no comparison

A comparison between Devanahalli and the new airport location would be unfair because of the varied terrain and settlement patterns, said Dayanand Bhandari, special deputy commissioner, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board.

The shortlisted locations include Chudahalli and Somanahalli (Kanakapura Road) and villages between Kunigal and Nelamangala near Tumakuru Road.

"When the airport was built in Devanahalli, it was a near-barren land, with barely any settlements. In comparison, the locations in south Bengaluru are more developed, have settlements and also have some vegetation."

"The location in Nelamangala has more vegetation than the Kanakapura Road locations, and also a hillock which cannot be removed. Groundwater levels too are different. Devanahalli had minimal groundwater availability, that's not the case with the Kanakapura Road locations. All of these things matter. So if it comes up in south Bengaluru, its planning will be very different, because of these varied factors," he elaborated.

The shift to Devanahalli marked more than an airport relocation — it fundamentally altered Bengaluru's urban geography.

Growth began moving northwards, triggering large-scale real-estate development, new business corridors and infrastructure investments around ,the airport region.

But it also deepened car dependency and long commutes, exposing how rapidly Bengaluru expanded without matching public transport and civic infrastructure.

Even today, the airport remains deeply dependent on private vehicles and taxis, contributing to congestion and long commutes.

Urban planners warn that the second airport could create another economic node before the city resolves the structural issues exposed by the first one.

R K Misra, urban expert and independent director at B-SMILE, likens KIA to an island. "An airport brings people from other places to the city and takes people from the city to other places, but how does one reach the airport in Bengaluru? What we have today is an island, which is far removed from the city," he said.

Citing the example of the newly opened Navi Mumbai international airport, he mentions how it was built keeping metro connectivity in mind.

"In Bengaluru, we're yet to get metro connectivity, 18 years after the airport started. Once you're at the airport, everything is beautiful, but reaching there is the biggest hurdle. This shouldn't repeat at the new airport," he said.

Urban planners and policymakers predominantly highlighted the traffic chokepoint at Hebbal.

"There's no alternative route to the airport. With Begur and Budigere roads in such horrible condition, everyone from everywhere ends up at Hebbal, creating a major chokepoint. The new airport, irrespective of where it comes up, must be well connected to all parts of the city," Misra said.

Bengaluru police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the airport plan must include road infrastructure with maximum number of lanes possible.

"We shouldn't wait till phase 2 or 3 of expansion to improve road infrastructure. We can plan ahead and mitigate potential traffic chokepoints. Also, it is very important that the proposed airport has ample connectivity with arterial roads such as satellite town ring road and outer ring road. The planning, if possible, should include a double flyover," he elaborated.

Connectivity within

An accessibility report must remain at the core of the proposed second airport, believes Ashish Verma, convener of the sustainable transportation lab at Indian Institute of Science.

"The focus must be on how much you reduce distances to the airport. And how much are you pushing for shared, electric and active mobility," he said, highlighting the need for accessibility within airport premises.

"Currently, the KIA operator is planning one metro station for both terminals as well as the proposed terminal 3. The distance to the metro station itself often becomes a deterrent for many when it comes to adopting public transport. This is a common problem at quite a few Indian airports. Setting up a shuttle service is not a solution. Instead, similar to Dubai airport, each terminal must internally have access to the metro," he said.

Both getting into the airport and out of it must be equally an accessible and streamlined process, which is currently not the case at KIA, he said.

Urban planners stressed the need for a more planned residential development around the new airport, in comparison to "haphazard and one-way" development around KIA, where accompanying infrastructure came in years after the airport was developed.

Man held for woman's murder

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hebbagodi police have arrested a 27-year-old private factory employee for murdering a woman and dumping her body in a lake at Thirupalya. Police said the suspect, Ratan Das alias Rohit, an Assam native, strangled Anjalinath (47) and dumped the body near Thirupalya lake.

Bengaluru airport crosses 400-million passenger mark since its opening

Clocks 6.2% year-on-year increase

BENGALURU, DHNS

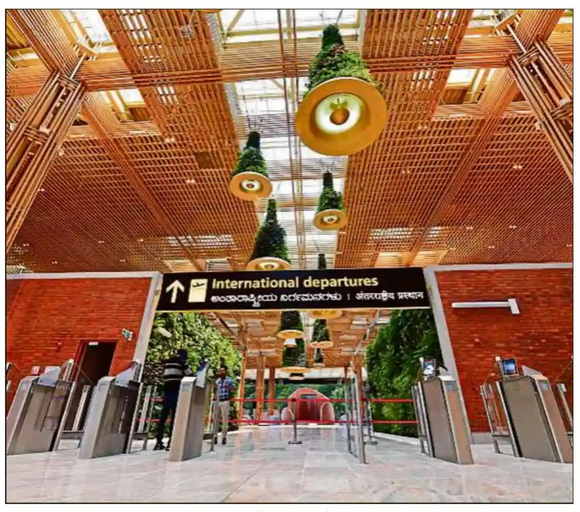
Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has crossed the 400-million passenger mark since its opening.

India's third-busiest airport recorded strong growth in international traffic and cargo movement during 2025–26, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the airport operator, stated.

At BIAL's 134th board meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, the airport operator reviewed performance and expansion initiatives undertaken during the financial year.

The airport handled 44.47 million passengers, marking a 6.2% year-on-year increase. International traffic rose by 23.9% to 7.23 million passengers, while domestic traffic grew 3.3% to 37.24 million passengers. The airport currently offers direct connectivity to over 78 domestic and 34 international destinations.

BIAL said air traffic movements also increased during the year, reaching 2.8 lakh flights, up 4.5% compared to the previous year. On average, the airport handled 769 aircraft movements daily, with the highest single-day traffic recorded at 837 movements. Passenger footfall peaked at 1.39 lakh in a day.



Kempegowda International Airport currently offers direct connectivity to over 78 domestic and 34 international destinations. DH FILE PHOTO

Cargo onboard

Cargo operations witnessed steady growth as well, with the airport handling 5.32 lakh metric tonnes of cargo, a 6% year-on-year rise.

BIAL attributed the increase to growing international cargo demand and expanding trade in sectors like pharmaceuticals, perishables, auto parts, electronics and e-commerce.

KIA retained its position as India's leading gateway for perishable exports for fifth straight year. In 2025-26, it handled around 60 million rose stems, while mango exports rose 12% to a five-year high, BIAL said.

The board also reviewed the ongoing infrastructure and capacity expansion projects aimed at improving passenger convenience and strengthening Bengaluru's position as an aviation hub.

BSWML launches app for collection of bulky waste

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has launched a new mobile application called 'DClutter' that citizens can use to have their bulky waste collected directly from their premises.

Once booked, the waste will be collected once a week depending on the quantity and nature of the garbage.

"The collected waste will be scientifically processed through authorised recyclers, wherever feasible, while the remaining non-recyclable material will be transported to waste-to-energy plants for further processing and disposal. The 'DClutter' app aims to bridge the existing gap in bulky waste management and provide Bengaluru citizens with a reliable and environmentally responsible disposal mechanism," BSWML stated.

While BSWML regularly collects wet and dry waste, disposing bulky waste such as old furniture, sofas, mattresses, cupboards, broken sanitary fittings, old commodes and other large household waste items has been a problem since these items are not collected by regular waste collectors. As a result, many times, these items end up on the roadsides creating environmental concerns and affecting the cleanliness and aesthetics of the city.

To address the concern about bulky waste collection, BSWML ran a trial exercise by deploying tractors to collect bulky waste dumped on roadsides, during which nearly 6,000 tonnes of bulky waste was identified and collected from places across the city.

Disposing off bulky waste

1. Download the 'DClutter' application from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
2. Register by entering the basic details.
3. Select the items to be disposed of.
4. Schedule a pickup time.
5. The BSWML team will visit your house and collect the items.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Ride for a Cause: Organised by Tusker and Midtown Rotary; Victoria Hospital; 7.30 am.

Workshop on 'Film Production Management': By Chengappa M; Organised by and held at Tent Cinema, Banashankari 2nd Stage; 9.30 am.

13th Anniversary of Art of Giving: N Santosh Hegde, Krishna S Dixit, Rakesh Singh, Venkatesh M V, Wooday P Krishna, P Sheshadri to be present; Art of Giving; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumara Krupa Road; 10 am.

Seminar on 'Women in Nation Building': Banu Mushtaq, K N Anuradha, Rooman Rizwan, B K Rupa, Ayesha Khanum, and N K Ananya to be present; Presided over by Rakhiba Iqbal; The Women's Auxiliary Organisation of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Jakkur; Vistara, Urban Boutique Hotel, Sahakar Nagar; 10.30 am.

CULTURAL

Kannada Nityotsava Award Ceremony and Music Festival: 'Kannada Ene Kunidaduvendenne' light music, and dance extravaganza in memory of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu and C Ashwath; Inauguration by L A Ravisubramanya; Presided over by Kikkeri Krishnamurthy; Award presentation by T AnSharavana; Award recipient: Sundar Raj Patti; Chandrashekara, Nagara Srinivas Udupa to be present; Adarsha Sugama Sangeetha Academy Trust; Dr C Ashwath Kala Bhavana, N R Colony; 10 am.

Book Release and Literary Discussion: H R Swamy's books 'Koracha Maathukathe' and the English translation 'The Korachas of Karnataka' to be released by Baraguru Ramachandrapppa; Agrahara Krishnamurthy and R V Chandrashekara to be present; Negila Yogi Trust; Ravindra Kalakshetra, J C Road; 10.30 am.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Thunderstorm with rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	32.0°C
Minimum	24.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	64%
Sunset (May 17)	6:38 pm
Sunrise (May 16)	5:54 am
Moonrise	5:03 am
Moonset	6:15 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Two men assault auto driver at K R Puram

BENGALURU, DHNS: An autorickshaw driver was allegedly assaulted by two unidentified men who also attempted to extort money from his passengers at KR Puram on Friday.

Fellow drivers demanded that the police take prompt action on his complaint and arrest the suspects. A CCTV footage of the incident has gone viral on social media.

Manjunath (36), a resident of Ayyappa Nagar, dropped off two women when the two men approached them seeking money. When the women ignored them, the men allegedly intercepted Manjunath's auto, got in and demanded that he buy them alcohol.

When Manjunath refused, they allegedly snatched a screwdriver and cutting pliers from the dashboard and attacked him. They then dragged him out of the vehicle and hit him with a wooden log before fleeing.

An injured Manjunath later approached the KR Puram police seeking action.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of corrigendum Tender Notice No. B-SG-Proj-Kavach-Survey Dated:16-04-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value (After Corrigendum)
Aerial videography /LiDAR survey in connection with the work of "Provision of Kavach with communication backbone of UHF on balance routes over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railways - 456 Km"	Rs. 75,89,002.80

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 27-05-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Projects / Bengaluru
PUB/124/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.:- S/RWP/E/2026-27/04 dated: 13.05.2026, Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in**, for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs., **SN** : 1, **Tender No.** : 01265032A, **Short Description of item** : Design Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning and Proving out of 132/11KV, 10 MVA 01 no. Additional Power Transformer, **Quantity :** 01 set, **Date of Tender Opening/Closing** : 02/06/2026 at 14:00 Hrs., 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in**. 2. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation** with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspapers.

For PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2026-27/17

PROVISION OF 4 X 48 FIBER OFC FOR COMMUNICATION BACKBONE

Tender Notice No.: N_02_HQ-2026-27, **Dated:** 08-05-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; (Two Packet System) **Tender No.:** N_02_HQ-2026-27; **Name of the work:** Provision of 4 x 48 fiber OFC for communication backbone in section New Tinsukia- Dibrugarh & Simalguri - Dibrugarh (143 RKM) of Tinsukia Division under HUN6 sections covered within sanctioned KAVACH territory. **Advertised Value:** ₹13,86,39,633.52/-; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 27,72,800/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **12:00** hrs. on **09-06-2026**. For complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in.**

PCSTE, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

STATE BANK OF INDIA
SSI Peenya Industrial Estate Branch (40284)
No.120, Near TVS Cross, 100 feet Road, 3rd Phase, Peenya Industrial area, 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560058. E-mail Id: sbi.40284@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the under signed being the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India,** under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) ("Act")and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 ("Rules"), issued a Demand Notice dated **24.02.2026** calling upon the borrower **(1) M/s S.S Engineering Works, Prop: Smt Shilpa B.S,** 24 A, Ground Floor, 9th Main Road, Lakshmi Devi Nagar, Kempamma Devi Layout, Bengaluru-560058, **Rep by its Prop: Smt Shilpa B.S** C/o Sri Devaraju Belur, # 177, 7th Cross, Peenya 3rd Phase, Bengaluru-560058, **Also at: Smt Shilpa B.S** C/o Sri Devaraju Belur, # 158, 1st D Main, 6th Cross, Parvathinagar, Laggere, Bengaluru-560058., to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 46,38,198-00 (Rupees Forty six lakh thirty eight thousand one hundred ninety eight only) as on 24.02.2026** and interest from **25.02.2026** and other charges and costs thereon within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor/mortgagor and public in general, that the under signed has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him /her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **15.05.2026.**

The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, for an amount of **Rs. 49,96,118/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakh Ninety Six Thousand One Hundred Eighteen Only)** as on **14.05.2026 and interest from 15.05.2026** and other charges and costs thereon till the date of realization of dues.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY :

(Hypothecation of Movable Properties) PART I : Hypothecation of all Stocks, Spares, Consumables, Book debts, Movables, Receivables, Plant & Machineries & Claims of the company and other Current Assets (Present & Future)

Sl.No.	Description	Supplier / Manufacturer	Quantity
1	SPM Brand CNC 3881020.00 Vertical Machining Center SPM/VL1050N FBT40	S V Technologies	1
2	SPM Brand CNC 4052120.00 Vertical Machining Center SPM/VL1540N BT40	S V Technologies	1

PART II : Immovable Propertie : NIL

Date : 15.05.2026
Place : Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

E Tender No.:- RWP-PNG-COMBINED-2026 "Dy. CME/Maintenance, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela acting for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender through Indian Railways specialized tendering portal www.ireps. gov.in from reputed firms based on single packet system for the under mentioned work: **1. Name of work with its location and completion period: Name of work:** 1. Complete Erection, Installation & Testing of overhead PNG pipeline from DRS (IOCL) to NF, DF, sand plant, Tube Stand & Riser cutting station at RWP/Bela. **2.** Design, Supply, installation and commissioning of gas trains, valves, pipes and associated components to create standby arrangement for Piped Natural Gas Set (PNG) at RWP/ Bela as per scope of work (Annexure-A & B) to achieve heating cycle of Normalizing Furnace (NF) & Draw Furnace (DF). **Location:** Rail Wheel Plant, Bela, **Completion Period:** 5 Months. **2. Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 3,73,98,342.32, **3. Bid Security to be Deposited :** ₹ 7,48,000.00, **4. Tender closing date and time :** 08.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **5. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** For full details and submission of bid tenderer/bidder may kindly visit Indian Railways specialized tendering portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer(s)/bidder(s) are directed to remain connected with IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender.

Dy. CME/Maintenance, Rail Wheel Plant-Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2026-27/19

2% khata conversion fee yet to be reality

Many unhappy at not getting e-khata on the spot

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Most open house centres across the city received good response, with queries from at least 50 property owners.

While many property owners were happy with the arrangements, others expressed dissatisfaction over technical problems and processing bottlenecks.

Many property owners wanting to pay and get their 'B' to 'A' khata conversion applications processed were disappointed as the system still reflected the fee as 5% of the guidance value instead of the new fee of 2%. The government stated earlier this week that all property owners who have not yet paid are eligible for a fee reduction. But the software failed to reflect this.

"I applied a week ago, but since I had not paid, my application was pending. I had hoped to finish the payment and all procedures at the open house. But the software still showed a higher fee. It is not a small amount; it runs up to thousands of rupees. Officials asked me to come back next Saturday," said Vishal K (name changed), of North Bengaluru.

A senior official at Kodigehalli open house centre told *DH* that they had requested higher-ups at GBA to update new fee in software.

"Many property owners are leaving after seeing the higher fee. We can only ask them to pay what the system shows or wait till change is reflected," the official said.

"I visited the centre twice today expecting to receive my e-khata. However, they only helped me apply for it, and I did not receive anything. I was asked to come next Saturday," said Krishna M (name changed), of Vidyaranyapura. Officials said some applications are sent to the quality control team for verification and e-khata is generated only after their approval.

BHU GUARANTEE: Over 1.2K applications processed

Under 'Bhu Guarantee', a total of 2,939 applications were received during the 'My E-Khata, My Hakku' campaign, related to e-khata, mutation, new e-khata, B-to-A khata conversion and grievances. Of the total 2,939 applications received, 1,242 were verified, approved, and final e-Khatas were issued. The remaining applications will be addressed within the set timeframe, the GBA said.

Disposed | Pending

E-Khata applications
568 | 512
Total: **1,080**

Mutation applications
64 | 75
Total: **139**

New Khata applications
90 | 146
Total: **236**

B-to-A Khata applications
120 | 305
Total: **425**

Grievance applications
400 | 659
Total: **1,059**

Over 1,000 e-khatas issued at first open house

BENGALURU, DHNS

At the first open house of the 'My e-khata My Right' campaign, the five city corporations together issued more than 1,000 e-khatas on the spot.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday formally launched the 'My E-Khata, My Right' (Nanna E-Khata, Nanna Hakku) campaign, terming it the government's sixth guarantee — Bhumi (Land) Guarantee.

The 100-day citizen-outreach drive, which will be held every Saturday across 52 centres in the five corporations under Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), aims to transition properties seamlessly from 'B' khata to 'A' khata and issue digitised e-khatas directly to citizens sans middlemen or bribes.

As an incentive to speed up regularisation, Shivakumar had earlier this week announced a 60% slash in betterment charges for a limited window. "Property owners were earlier required to pay 5% of the guidance value for single-site layout approval to convert 'B' khata to 'A' khata.

For the next 100 days (from May 15, 2026, to August 23, 2026), the government has slashed this fee to just 2%. "This is a golden opportunity for 7 lakh property owners to enhance their asset value," he said.

The DyCM admitted that the government was well aware of lower-level revenue officials harassing citizens and demanding bribes for registration.

"Citizens do not need to pay a single rupee as a bribe to any official or political middleman. We are establishing a dedicated helpline where people can report demand for bribes, and strict action will be taken against errant officials," he said.

Out of the 23 lakh properties identified in Bengaluru, 16 lakh currently hold 'A' khatas, while 7 lakh are stuck with 'B' khatas, depriving owners of bank loans and legal property transfers.

The new finalised e-khata will feature photographs of both owner and property, making it completely tamper-proof.

The system has been integrated with sub-registrar offices, enabling instant retrieval of property mutation and registration records dating back to 2004 upon entering designated property identification number.

"If anyone manages to secure a khata using fraudulent documents, we have built a mechanism to revoke it instantly," he said.

Citizens can either collect the physical file at the centre by paying a nominal fee of Rs 125 or download it online.

The single-window system set up across GBA's 5 municipal corporations witnessed heavy footfall on Day 1. The response from citizens was positive.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar presents an e-khata certificate to a property owner on Saturday. KR Puram MLA Byrathi Basavaraj is also seen. PHOTO/DCM'S OFFICE

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UNDERMINING PEOPLE'S WILL? Postal ballot woes, election plea delays add to confusion

Sringeri result fluctuations expose poll process faultlines

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR

The Sringeri Assembly constituency has, of late, been witness to a musical chair of sorts.

On May 13, 2023, Congress' T D Rajegowda won the seat by 201 votes against BJP's D N Jeevaraj, who petitioned the Karnataka high court, questioning the rejection of 279 postal ballots.

Almost three years after the election, on May 2, 2026, a high court-ordered recount of postal ballots overturned the 2023 result and declared Jeevaraj the winner by 52 seats, unseating Rajegowda.

In a dramatic shift, Rajegowda's valid postal ballot count had plunged from 569 to 314 (255 votes are invalidated), while Jeevaraj's tally dropped by only two votes (to 690).

Rajegowda filed a case against Jeevaraj alleging "tampering, double crossing of ballots" and procedural lapses, while Jeevaraj approached Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, urging him that he be administered the oath of office, saying there was a delay by Assembly Speaker U T Khader in doing so.

When the high court stayed the FIR, Rajegowda approached the Supreme Court, which (on May 15) ordered "status quo ante" till the next hearing on May 21, restoring Rajegowda's status as MLA.

The political and legal battle escalated. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy called it a "test case" of "vote dacoity" by BJP.

The episode has spotlighted how prolonged election litigations can produce competing mandates, administrative uncertainty and public confusion long after votes are cast, while exposing the vulnerability of postal ballots, questioning the discretionary powers of returning officers and the absence of strict timelines in adjudicating election petitions.

Congress candidate T D Rajegowda (third from right) arrives at the office of the state chief electoral officer in Bengaluru, to submit a complaint on the 'irregularities' in the recounting of postal ballots cast in the Assembly election to the Sringeri seat.

Speaker U T Khader with D N Jeevaraj (BJP), after administering him the oath of office at Vidhana Soudha. Jeevaraj was declared elected MLA of Sringeri, after votes were recounted. The Apex Court has since ordered status quo ante, restoring Rajegowda's status as MLA. DH FILE PHOTOS

This is not an isolated case. Last February, the Supreme Court upheld the election of Congress MLA from Malur K Y Nanjegowda, after a recounting of votes.

In Jayanagar, Congress candidate Sowmya Reddy petitioned the court citing discrepancies in postal ballot counting after BJP's C K Ramamurthy won by 16 votes following a recount. Three years later, the final verdict in this case is still awaited.

Interestingly, most disputes are related to postal ballots, which require manual scrutiny of declarations, signatures and procedural compliance under form 13A, which makes them vulnerable to both human error and manipulation.

Delaying justice?

A former chief electoral officer said the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951, envisages disposal of election petitions within six months, but practical realities make that timeline difficult to achieve as election petitions involve adversarial proceedings, detailed hearings, cross-examination of witnesses, scrutiny of election records and multiple interlocutory applications. Add to this, the heavy pendency in courts. Many of the cases eventually reach the Supreme Court.

"Prolonged litigation weakens legitimacy of the mandate," he added.

In India, recounting is not automatic and is allowed only when there are pleaded irregularities like mismatch in ballot account, tabulation errors and rejected or accepted ballots being wrongly counted.

For parliamentary and Assembly elections, recount is allowed under the RP Act, 1951 and the conduct of election rules.

Usually, the candidate first seeks recount before the returning officer (RO). Once results are declared, the challenge is only through an election petition before the high court within 45 days after the results are declared.

Constitutional lawyer Harish Narsappa said the Sringeri dispute demonstrates why India urgently needed structural reforms in election adjudication.

"The courts are overburdened. But election petitions need to be prioritised as delay undermines democracy. The verdict should be out within six months to a year. Today, both the defeated candidate and citizens are filing election petitions, which calls for a new jurisprudence."

"Also, the burden of proof in election petitions is extremely high. Petitioners must establish procedural irregularities with documentary precision while also overcoming multiple technical objections," Narsappa said.

The petitions will automatically reduce if election officers are well trained and have high integrity and efficiency, feel experts.

"You cannot expect an official to be efficient suddenly on the day of polling or counting, when we generally lack the culture of efficiency. Neither the EC nor the parties want reforms that ensure zero political influence over electoral process," he said.

In the Sringeri case, Jeevaraj claimed his election agent had sought recounting twice.

"The RO did not order a recount. I challenged Rajegowda's narrow margin victory in court. If there was no foul play, why did Rajegowda appeal against my plea in court? He should have agreed for a recount," he contended.

Under election law, candidates and counting agents can seek recount or raise objections during counting.

The RO is expected to examine every written objection and issue a reasoned order, either accepting or rejecting the request.

"If discrepancies are serious, it could be due to inadequate training or outright complicity that warrant disciplinary action, criminal investigation and institutional accountability," said another former EC official.

Such prolonged disputes raise a troubling constitutional question: can electoral legitimacy survive when judicial outcomes arrive years after governments are formed and political careers altered?

Ashoka flays govt over Sadhana Samavesha

'Pensions, welfare benefits unpaid for months'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka on Saturday slammed the Congress government, alleging the state treasury is empty, and the government was pushing the state into "bankruptcy".

"Why should the government hold the 'Sadhana Samavesha', a convention organised in Tumakuru on May 19 to showcase its achievements on completing three years in office, when pensions and welfare benefits to vulnerable groups have been stalled for months," Ashoka charged.

Ashoka pointed out that 12 types of pensions managed by the Revenue Department, affecting 81.88 lakh beneficiaries, have gone unpaid for three months.

He charged, "The schemes require only Rs 894 crore every month, and despite an annual allocation of Rs 10,736 crore, payments have not been made. This includes pensions for the elderly, widows, the Sandhya Suraksha scheme, support for transgender minorities, acid attack victims, former Devadasis, and freedom fighters."

He also mentioned that Rs 5,000 crore earmarked for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme and Rs 700 crore for Anna Bhagya have not reached the intended beneficiaries.

Ashoka accused the government of "looting" the common man through the e-Khata and B-Khata conversion drive, alleging that officials are openly soliciting bribes via PhonePe.

Defending the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Ashoka claimed that "more than 10 lakh Bangladeshis" reside in Karnataka, and asserted, "The Congress is opposing the SIR because it fears losing the votes of illegal immigrants."

Transport workers to display black flags

The RTC workers, under the banner of the Joint Action Committee of the KSRTC trade unions, will display black flags in front of the Town Hall here on Tuesday as mark of the protest against the state government's apathy towards the justful demands of the transport workers, KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation general secretary D A Vijay Bhaskar said on Saturday, reports DHNS from Tumakuru.

"The state government, fearing the transport workers' strike, advanced its Sadhana Samavesha (to mark its three years in power) scheduled for May 20 in Tumakuru. Condemning the Congress government's evil design, the transport workers will hold a symbolic protest in the town on May 19," Vijaya Bhaskar told reporters.

"The state government has neglected the transport workers. There is no question of withdrawing the indefinite strike called by the RTC trade unions, pressing the government to fulfill their various demands," he said, adding that the agitating workers would not disturb the Samavesha.

He clarified that the strike would go on even if the government invokes ESMA.

The state government has reserved 4,000 buses to bring Congress workers and people from across the state to Tumakuru Samavesha.

Deve Gowda invites CM to Bidadi to witness plight of farmers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda on Saturday invited Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to Bidadi and witness the plight of farmers who will lose their land to the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township project.

Gowda, who launched an agitation against what he called "forces trying to grab poor people's land" said that fertile agricultural land around Bidadi was being targeted by the land mafia.

Demanding that the project be dropped, Gowda said, "I will come, you (CM) also come. Farmers are in tears. We must stop forces trying to snatch poor people's land around Bengaluru. The local MLAs, tahsildars and district officials have failed the farmers."

"Farmers here supply milk to dairies every day. Irrigation projects worth Rs 250 crore were implemented in the region. Why take away fertile land," asked the former PM.

In a not-so veiled attack on Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, Gowda said, "One individual who is handling Bengaluru affairs, irrigation and holding a responsible position in a national party is pushing for the township despite public opposition."

Defending his son and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, Gowda said "Kumaraswamy's earlier proposal for satellite townships around Bengaluru was intended to reduce pressure on the city, but was withdrawn after protests. People who accused Kumaraswamy of trying to grab land are now pushing for the township."

Gowda also revealed that he had written to Siddaramaiah seeking an inquiry into ownership of nearly 20,000 acres around Bengaluru. "Siddaramaiah, you worked with me and speak about social justice. Conduct a probe," he said.

Cabinet panel to review report on State Education Policy

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has constituted a six-member Cabinet sub-committee to review the final report of the State Educational Policy Commission and make recommendations.

A notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat on Saturday said that the sub-committee will be headed by Home Minister G Parameshwara, while Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Small Industries Minister Sharanabasappa Darshanapur, and Higher Education Minister M C Sudhakar, will be members.

The panel will examine the commission's findings and submit final recommendations to the Cabinet.

DKS opposes ONOE plan, calls it 'power-centralising' scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday strongly opposed the Centre's 'One Nation One Election' (ONOE) proposal, calling it a "politically motivated and power-centralising" scheme that threatens federalism and democracy.

Speaking at a dialogue organised by the joint parliamentary committee (JPC) on 'One Nation One Election' (ONOE) here, Shivakumar said, "I categorically reject this proposal. It is crafted to suit the those at the helm of power at the Centre".

He said the state Assembly had already passed a resolution opposing ONOE and read out the resolution at the meeting.

The DCM asked, "If a government collapses mid-term due to a no-confidence motion or lack of majority, what is to be done then? Elections are held at different times in different states. How can these varying schedules be synchronized?"

Calling it a ploy to suppress regional and Opposition voices, he said the state government stood by Congress high command's position. He handed over a copy of the Assembly resolution to P P Chaudhary, chairman of JPC.

JD(S) wants safeguards for regional parties

The JD(S) said it supports the 'One Nation One Election' proposal and the 129th Constitutional Amendment Bill, but demanded safeguards to protect regional parties and state autonomy.

The party's representatives, led by Kolar MP M Mallesh Babu, took part in the JPC meeting.

"We supporting simultaneous elections, but urge for amendments to be made to protect regional parties amid the dominant national parties and their massive campaigns. There is a need to also bring in laws to protect the stability of coalition governments, which have become common both in states and at the Centre in the past decade," stated the JD(S) memorandum to the JPC.

Flagging the lack of clarity on provisions giving the election commission authority to postpone elections in any state, JD(S) sought clear amendments.

Belagavi ponzi scam probe to be handed to CID

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Mal-Maruti police on Friday night arrested Shivanand Neelannavar, the proprietor of Shivam Associates, accused of cheating crores of rupees to its depositors.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan told reporters here on Saturday that more than 35,000 depositors are suspected to have been cheated and the magnitude of the scam is estimated to exceed Rs 50 crore based on prima facie information. He added that the case was being transferred to the CID for investigation.

He said that a cell has been established in his office under the Karnataka Protection of Interests of Depositors (KPID) Act and the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act (BUDS) to safeguard the interests of depositors.

Commissioner of Police Bhushan Borase said the police had been closely tracking the activities of Neelannavar and his firm.

"We had sought information from SEBI and RBI regarding the firm's operations. SEBI had also written to the CID seeking an investigation into the matter," he said.

Borase said a viral video in which the accused allegedly claimed to possess 15,000 guns had raised suspicion and prompted police to intensify the probe.

Police have seized documents and digital devices from the firm's premises. According to the firm's balance sheet, its annual turnover was reportedly between Rs 300 crore and Rs 400 crore.

He said that the accused was not cooperating with investigators and had claimed that the collected money was invested in FMCG businesses, fisheries and real estate ventures. "We are seeking police custody of the accused for further investigation," he said.

Karnataka gets 1,122 additional medical seats

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka will get an additional 1,122 under-graduate and post-graduate medical seats, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil said on Saturday.

During a press meet held at Bengaluru, Patil said the state currently has 72 medical colleges across government, private and deemed universities, offering 13,945 MBBS and 7,727 PG seats.

"The Centre has approved 550 extra MBBS seats to be distributed among government medical colleges, with each getting 50 seats. Another 572 PG seats have been cleared across 23 institutions," he said adding that it was equivalent to setting up 10 new medical colleges, but without the huge cost.

The expansion comes under the Centre's scheme for strengthening and upgrading existing medical colleges. The Centre will provide Rs 495 crore for UG seats and Rs 541 crore total support for PG seats. Each new seat costs an estimated Rs 1.5 crore, shared in a 60:40 ratio between centre and state. For UG seats, the total cost is Rs 825 crore, with the Centre's share at Rs 495 crore and the state's at Rs 330 crore.

The minister also demanded that NEET-UG be abolished from 2026 and states be allowed to conduct their own CETs. Alleging repeated irregularities in NEET over the last five years, Patil said the CBI probe had not inspired confidence and sought a judicial inquiry.

"Karnataka's CET through KEA is transparent, fair and student-friendly," he said, adding it ensured equal opportunities for rural, middle-class and economically weaker students.

Heavy rain, gusty winds cause widespread damage to power infra, trees in parts of state

BENGALURU, DHNS: Heavy rain and gusty winds that lashed Haveri district and coastal and south interior districts since Friday evening have uprooted hundreds of full-grown trees and caused widespread damage to power infrastructure.

Many parts of Haveri district, including the district centre, experienced heavy showers, accompanied by thunder, lightning and strong winds. In Haveri, skies opened up in the evening and it continued to pour till late in the night intermittently. The showers left the streets and the low-lying areas flooded. Rainwater flowed like a stream on old PB road.

Roof sheet of a government lower primary school at Shidlapur in Shiggaon taluk, Haveri district, is blown away in the storm on Saturday.

Sharp showers disrupted the weekly shandy in Hosaritti village. Heavy rain hit normal life in Shiggaon and Savanur taluks. The tin roof of Shidlapur government lower primary school was blown away in the gusty winds. High-intensity winds blew away roof sheets off several houses in Karadagi village. Ranebennur, Hangal and Byadgi taluks also experienced thundershowers.

Banana plantations on several acres were completely destroyed at several places in Koppal taluk. The evening showers gave a much-needed respite for the people in the district from soaring temperatures.

Many parts of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Hassan districts witnessed heavy rain coupled with gusty winds late Friday night. Doora of Mysuru taluk recorded 51 mm, the highest rainfall in the state. Tree falls and uprooting of electricity poles were reported at several places in the old Mysuru region, including Mysuru city.

A massive tree came down on Chikkamagaluru-Mudigere road near Kelaguru, affecting the vehicular movement for hours on Saturday afternoon. The commuters travelling to Mudigere, Dharmasthala, Ujire and Mangaluru faced grave hardships. Uprooting of electricity poles resulted in power outages at several villages in the hilly district.

Parts of Dakshina Kannada also experienced thundershowers on Saturday evening. The sanctum sanctorum of Iliyuru Mahavishnu Temple in Bantwal taluk was partially damaged in a lightning strike. Stone slabs of the temple were damaged in the incident. The temple was renovated at a cost of Rs 3.5 crore four years back.

Govt plans licence for Jan Aushadhi outlets

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Food Safety and Drug Administration Department found 35 unsafe drugs during recent raids on 230 Jan Aushadhi centres across Karnataka, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has said.

The Health and Family Welfare Department now plans to introduce a licence for Jan Aushadhi outlets, allowing them to sell only generic medicines.

The deaprtment has also launched a web portal to block drugs that fail to pass the Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) test. On average, about 450 drugs do not pass the quality test every year. In 2025-2026, the department withdrew drugs worth about Rs 1.85 crore, he added.

The portal will track NSQ drugs through batch numbers and automatically lock them to prevent further sale. Stockists will not even be allowed to bill such drugs. The department will also have details of available stock, and drugs will be seized accordingly, he explained.

The portal will provide statewide data, including stock availability, stock-in-hand, quantities and returns to suppliers.

The department is also closely monitoring drugs listed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, amid growing concerns over their misuse, the minister said.

A separate portal to curb the misuse of NDPS is also being launched. Under the new portal, retailers will be required to verify patient, doctor and prescription details before dispensing NDPS drugs.

Pvt bus fares to rise by 10-20% from May 20

Bus fare, From PJ 2

Sharma detailed how private transportation is facing a "slow death" in the state, squeezed by both rising overheads and competitive pressures. Every long-distance bus requires roughly 150 litres of diesel per trip. The Rs 3 hike in diesel price translates to an unexpected additional expenditure of Rs 450 to Rs 1,000 per single trip.

Due to global supply constraints forcing several private petrol bunks to shut down, bus owners have lost the Rs 1-per-litre corporate discounts they previously enjoyed. Buying fuel from certain private retail outlets now costs up to Rs 5 more than government-run bunks.

According to association representatives, mid-tier operators are bearing the brunt of passenger shift because of the Shakti scheme.

The hike will hit passengers hard.

"A 20% jump for long-distance travel is a big blow to families like ours," said K Athani, a Hubballi native working in Bengaluru. "I visit my parents twice a month. With AC sleeper tickets already touching Rs 1,200 during weekends, an extra Rs 200-300 means I will have to cut down my trips."

Another passenger said: "Government buses on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru route are booked out weeks in advance, so we depend on private operators."

Rising consumption costs 7L consumers Gruha Jyothi benefits

Gruha Jyothi, From PJ2

Bescom officials said that the number of beneficiaries changes every month and people should track their consumption to make better use of the scheme's benefits.

Citizens urged the government to consider calculating the average eligible units every year if the scheme is to be effective and serve people.

However, senior officials in the energy department said such revisions would have financial implications.

Between August 2023 and January 2026, the government released Rs 10,625 crore in subsidies for Gruha Jyothi consumers under the Bescom jurisdiction. The overall amount across Escoms totals Rs 22,754 crore.

"Revising the eligible limits will have bigger financial implications. What we are speaking about is thousands of crores of money, so the decision has to be made at the government level. As of now, no such discussions are ongoing," a senior official from the energy department told *DH* on the condition of anonymity.

Muslims' meet demands better political representation for community

Seeks two nominees in 2026 Legislative Council election

BENGALURU, DHNS:

A federation of Muslim organisations in Karnataka on Saturday adopted a three-tier "charter of demands" seeking immediate legal, political and welfare measures from the Congress government, including restoration of 4% reservation for Muslims under Category 2B, repeal of the anti-conversion and cattle slaughter laws, protection against voter deletions, and enhanced political representation.

Among their demands, the community seeking better Muslim political representation - at least two Muslim nominees in the 2026 Legislative Council election - was significant especially in the light of the Davangere South bypoll that saw a division of Muslim votes leading to a low-margin victory of the Congress candidate.

Support for 'alternatives'

While the leaders and social activists urged the Siddaramaiah government to keep its poll promises, they also cautioned the Congress party against ignoring their demands stating the community had options and would support "alternatives" in all the future elections.

Welfare allocation

In its lists of medium and long-term demands, the federation called for a roadmap to an annual allocation of Rs 10,000-crore for minority welfare, expansion of the scholarship schemes, a legislation to overcome the 50% ceiling on reservation similar to the Tamil Nadu model, enhancement of the Category 2B reservation from 4% to 8%, and also a dedicated Waqf land recovery and litigation mission.

The federation also sought a binding timeline for the submission of the caste survey report, which could help the community get a fair representation and also reservation.

The resolutions were adopted at a convention held in Bengaluru, where the speakers urged the state government to treat the issues with seriousness and also to take immediate and legally durable corrective action during the upcoming monsoon session of the state legislature.

On SIR

Besides, the organisations sought the creation of a statutory authority to monitor hate speech, vigilantism, economic boycotts and communal offences and most importantly setting up of a state-level task force to prevent wrongful deletion of genuine voters during the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The tower of a temple has been discovered near the Elephant Stable at Hampi. DH PHOTO

Tower of ancient temple discovered near Gajashala at Hampi

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGARA DIST), DHNS: The tower (Shikhara) of an ancient temple has been discovered during the excavation work being carried out near the famed Elephant Stable (Gajashala) area in Hampi.

The remains surfaced during excavations undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India behind the Gajashala, close to a Jain temple. According to ASI officials involved in the excavation, the structure could either be a Vishnu temple or a Jain shrine.

Dimensions

Preliminary findings suggest that the temple measures 4.3 metres in length and 4.25 metres in width. So far, the temple tower and the sanctum sanctorum (Garbhagruha) have been identified.

The officials said a clearer picture of the structure is expected to emerge in the coming days, while a complete understanding of the site may take nearly 2 months.

Predates Vijayanagara?

Experts associated with the excavation work said the temple may predate the Vijayanagara empire.

"Temples belonging to Vijayanagara period are generally larger in scale, whereas this structure is relatively small. There is a possibility that the temple had 3 entrances. Based on these features, it is estimated that it could be either a Vishnu temple or a Jain shrine," they said.

Historical treasures

Virupakshi V Hampi, general secretary of State Tourist Guides' Association, said the discovery reinforces the belief that Hampi still holds many historical treasures hidden beneath.

New railway...

Yelahanka, From PJ 2

The SWR had initially proposed the terminal in Devanahalli but the location was later found unsuitable due to its distance from the city.

Separately, Somanna said the railways was working to construct road overbridges (ROBs) and railway underbridges (RUBs) to eliminate all level-crossing gates within a 100-km radius of Bengaluru. ROBs/RUBs have already been sanctioned for 46 LC gates, while DPRs are under preparation to eliminate 24 more LC gates. Proposals are being prepared for the remaining locations, he said.

He said the RUB work at Ramohalli Gate (LC 16) would be completed by June 30. Similarly, the railway bridge at Bhimasandra will be completed by June, Bilipalya (after Gubbi) by August and Sahakara Nagar within this year. However, the railway bridge work at Dubasipalya, off Mysuru Road, will take time as land is needed, he added.

Answering a question about the long schedule of the newly announced bi-weekly train between Bengaluru and Mumbai, Somanna promised that it would be upgraded to a superfast "in phases".

Three youths die in road mishap in Saundatti taluk

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Three youths riding on a motorcycle were killed after an unidentified vehicle rammed into their bike near Hulikatti village in Saundatti taluk of the district on Friday night. The deceased have been identified as Ningappa Neelappa Matarangi (25), Prashant Hanumanthappa Barker (24) and Lokesh Barker (25), all natives of Kurubageri Oni in Nargund of Gadag district. While Ningappa and Prashant died on the spot, Lokesh breathed his last at the govt hospital in Nargund.

'Actual source' of NEET-UG...

NEET, From PJ 2

"During these classes, she explained and disclosed various questions from botany and zoology subjects and made the students note down the same in their notebooks and also mark them in their textbooks. Majority of these questions tallied with the actual question paper of the exam held on May 3," the statement said. The NTA on May 12 cancelled the NEET exam following the paper leak.

The CBI on Friday arrested Kulkarni claiming that he along with Waghmare had conducted special coaching classes for students at his residence in Pune. He had "dictated questions along with options and correct answers and the questions so dictated were handwritten by students in their notebooks and have exactly tallied with the actual question paper".

Investigators earlier said that Waghmare and Dhananjay Lokhanda of Ahilyanagar were taken into custody on May 14 while five persons — Shubham Khairnar from Nashik, Mangilal Biwal, Vikas Biwal and Dinesh Biwal (all from Jaipur) and Yash Yadav from Gurugram — were arrested on May 13. Of this Dinesh Biwal was linked to the BJP's Yuva Morcha local wing.

Private sleeper bus catches fire, passengers safe

HASSAN, DHNS: As many as 36 passengers of a private sleeper bus had a narrow escape after the vehicle they were travelling in caught fire near Shanthigrama on NH 75 in Hassan taluk, on Friday night.

The incident occurred when the bus was proceeding to Mangaluru from Bengaluru.

One of the tyres of the bus punctured after which smoke filled the bus. The driver stopped the vehicle and ensured that the passengers got down.

While the passengers got down with their handbags, many of their luggages were burnt, the police said.

Personnel of the department of Fire and Emergency Services have extinguished the fire. However, by the time they reached, the bus was fully burnt. Shanthigrama police, who rushed to the spot, have registered a case.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast May 17: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	32.6	23.2	00
Bidar	38.2	26.8	00
Vijayapura	37.5	25.5	00
Dharwad	35	21.8	00
Haveri	35	22.8	00
Kalaburagi	39.4	27.2	00
Raichur	40.4	29	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.4	27.1	00
Karwar	33.7	27.7	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.5	28.8	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	33.3	24.9	00
Bengaluru	30.9	24.2	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	35.3	21	1.6
Davangere	36	20.5	4.8
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	34.2	18.8	45
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	34.6	21.2	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	39.8	24.8	00
Kolkata	37.1	24.6	06
Mumbai	34.2	28.1	00
Chennai	33.1	27.1	00
Pune	36.2	23.7	00
Hyderabad	40.4	29.7	00
Th'puram	30.7	24	03

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- Long-awaited convenience for lakhs of commuters, professionals, and families seeking a reliable and affordable rail link
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by
Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology

In the august presence of
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State For Railways and Jal Shakti

P. C. Mohan, Member of Parliament
Tejasvi Surya, Member of Parliament
G. C. Chandrashekhar, Member of Parliament
Lahar Singh Siroya, Member of Parliament
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S. Raghu, Member of Legislative Assembly
Puttanna, Member of Legislative Council
H. S. Gopinath, Member of Legislative Council
Ramoji Gowda, Member of Legislative Council

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EVER-RELEVANT

VCK may have just 2 seats, but Dalit leader is kingmaker

Thirumaavalavan: The centre of Tamil Nadu's power game

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

On May 8 and 9, Tamil Nadu politics began revolving around a Dalit man who did not hold enough MLAs to form or topple a government, or even dominate the Assembly numerically. Yet every major party waited for VCK president Tholkappiyan Thirumaavalavan.

The 63-year-old suddenly became the hinge between two futures: helping TVK president C Joseph Vijay complete his rise to power, or accepting an extraordinary proposal from the DMK and the AIADMK to become the state's first Dalit chief minister.

Thirumaavalavan was neither reluctant nor confident about the latter proposal. He knew the move might have carried the tacit blessings of the BJP — his ideological adversary for nearly two decades. Yet, the DMK and the AIADMK continued to court him in a last-ditch effort.

While the DMK agreed to the idea of a Dalit CM, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami initially opposed it. The original plan behind the DMK-AIADMK alignment was to let Palaniswami head a coalition government with smaller allies on both sides, backed by external support from the DMK.

On May 8 evening, when his decision was expected, Thirumaavalavan went incommunicado. He was later spotted at then-outgoing CM M K Stalin's residence, and kept most visitors away, deepening speculation around his next move.

The next day, TVK's Aadhav Arjuna landed at Thirumaavalavan's office and received the letters of support from the VCK's two MLAs, effectively bringing down the curtains on one of the most dramatic coalition moments in TN's politics.

VCK sources insisted that the delay was not because Thirumaavalavan was interested in the CM's post, but because he wanted to consult senior office-bearers and district-level functionaries.

Political journey

Born in Anganur in the Ariyalur district, Thirumaavalavan worked in the Tamil Nadu Forensic Sciences Department in Coimbatore, Chennai, and Madurai before coming into contact with Malaichamy, founder of the Dalit Panthers Iyakkam.

After Malaichamy died in 1989, Thirumaavalavan assumed leadership of the movement and began working in villages across southern Tamil Nadu, where caste oppression often remained invisible. The organisation entered electoral politics in 1999 at the insistence of Congress veteran G K Moopanar, who attempted to build a Third Front against both the DMK and the AIADMK.

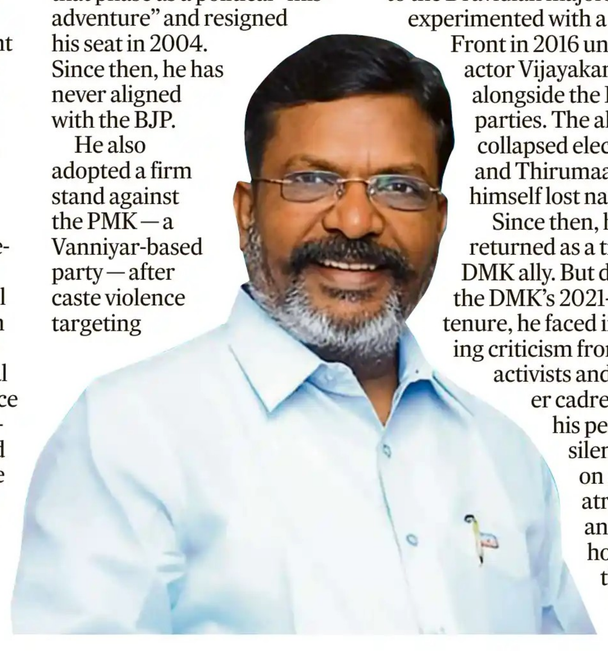
The experiment failed electorally, but it marked Thirumaavalavan's transition from an activist to a full-time politician.

Over the next two decades, he emerged as one of Tamil Nadu's most recognisable Dalit voices, particularly for his confrontational politics against caste violence and, later, his uncompromising opposition to the BJP and its Hindutva ideology.

His politics increasingly fused Ambedkarite, Marxist, and Periyarist frameworks, while consciously bringing Muslims into a broader subaltern political coalition against majoritarian nationalism.

Ironically, Thirumaavalavan first entered the Assembly from the Mangalore constituency in the Cuddalore district while aligned with a DMK-BJP alliance. He later described that phase as a political "misadventure" and resigned his seat in 2004. Since then, he has never aligned with the BJP.

He also adopted a firm stand against the PMK — a Vanniyar-based party — after caste violence targeting Dalits intensified in northern Tamil Nadu. In 2011, he declared that he would never again be part of any alliance that included the PMK.



Ideology vs survival?

Both the DMK and the AIADMK continued courting him over the years because the VCK wielded influence across parts of northern and central Tamil Nadu, especially among Dalit youths. A three-time Lok Sabha member from Chidambaram, Thirumaavalavan became electorally useful to larger alliances while also remaining ideologically inconvenient to them.

Feeling that the VCK had little independent future if it remained permanently tied to the Dravidian majors, he experimented with a Third Front in 2016 under actor Vijayakanth alongside the Left parties. The alliance collapsed electorally, and Thirumaavalavan himself lost narrowly.

Since then, he has returned as a trusted DMK ally. But during the DMK's 2021-2026 tenure, he faced increasing criticism from Dalit activists and younger cadres for his perceived silence on caste atrocities and for not holding the Stalin government sufficiently accountable.

As the VCK's seat share diminished over successive elections, many supporters urged him to walk out of the DMK alliance altogether. Yet the BJP's presence within the AIADMK-led front closed that route.

At the same time, Thirumaavalavan struggled to prevent a visible drift of Dalit youth toward Vijay and the TVK. In what many saw as an attempt to reassert independent strength, he briefly announced his candidature from Kattumannarkoil before withdrawing it after reported unhappiness within the DMK.

Ultimately, the VCK won only two seats this time. Yet in a fractured Assembly, those two seats suddenly became decisive.

Part of Thirumaavalavan's long-term political project has been to expand the VCK beyond a purely Dalit party by drawing in Muslims and even sections of non-Dalit backward communities — particularly Vanniyars. It has produced partial electoral success but also internal anxieties over ideological compromise and political dilution.

With just two MLAs, the VCK is now well-positioned to achieve one of its founding principles — seeking a share in power and being part of a government. And Thirumaavalavan seems to be moving towards accepting this historic opportunity and seeing his men enjoying power.

CBSE makes 3-language study must from July 1

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

KEY CHANGES

- Students must study at least two Indian languages under the new rule
- A foreign language can be chosen only after two Indian languages are studied
- The third language will be assessed internally by schools

Students in classes 9 and 10 will have to opt for a third language from July, with two being native Indian languages, stated a Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) notification on Friday.

It said the decision was in line with "the vision" of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023.

"Students who wish to study a foreign language may do so as the third language only if the other two languages are native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language," the notification read.

"In this context, the board has carefully reviewed the recently released NCERT syllabus for Class 9 (2026-27), which includes the study of three languages (R1, R2, R3) at the secondary stage," it added.

The CBSE also said all assessments for R3 must be entirely "school-based and internal", and that no student would be barred from writing the Class 10 board examination due to R3.

The exemptions the board has allowed are for children with special needs (who will get relaxations as per the RPwD Act), affiliated schools outside India, and foreign students returning to India.

As per the notification, the CBSE's comparative analysis shows a 75-80% overlap in core language competencies, including oral communication, reading comprehension, written expression, and grammatical awareness, between the Middle Stage and the Secondary Stage R3.

"Accordingly, till the dedicated R3 textbooks are available, Class 9 students shall use the Class 6 R3 textbooks (2026-27 edition) of the chosen language. To adequately address the competencies envisaged at the secondary stage, these textbooks will be supplemented with one appropriate local or state literary material, selected by schools, such as short stories, poems or nonfiction works," said the CBSE.

It said Class 6 R3 textbooks in 19 scheduled languages would be made available to schools before July 1.

For the remaining native languages, any available book from the SCERT and state-level resources should be used.

The CBSE also said that schools facing a shortage of qualified native Indian-language teachers may take interim measures, like engaging existing teachers of other subjects with functional proficiency in the concerned native Indian language.

Andhra to reward couples for more kids

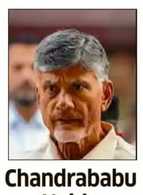
Naidu govt to offer Rs 30,000 for third child, Rs 40K for fourth

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday announced cash incentives to couples as part of efforts to reverse the state's declining population.

They have been promised Rs 30,000 for the birth of a third child and Rs 40,000 for a fourth.

Speaking at a public meeting in Narsannapeta in the Srikakulam district, Naidu said the state government would release further details within a month.



Chandrababu Naidu

"I have made a new decision. We will provide Rs 30,000 immediately after the birth of a third child and Rs 40,000 for a fourth child. Isn't this the right decision?" he said on the sidelines of the Swarna Andhra – Swach Andhra cleanliness programme.

He warned that a falling population is a serious concern, and said a special action plan would be implemented to curb the decline.

Naidu said a new scheme called "Children Are Wealth" would be launched soon, stressing that population management aims to transform the population into a national asset.

He noted that many families now prefer only one child, which has contributed to population decline and a rising elderly share in several countries, trends that can harm economic growth.

The chief minister recalled the state's earlier family-planning work, but said circumstances had changed, and that he was now promoting children as a societal asset.

POPULATION PUSH

- Chandrababu Naidu announced a new population-management initiative to boost birth rates
- He warned that declining fertility and ageing populations could hurt economic growth
- Proposed policy includes nutrition support, free education, and wellness benefits for third children

Under the proposed population-management policy, measures would be taken to raise the fertility rate.

Anganwadi centres were being strengthened through the Women and Child Welfare Department to provide nutrition to mothers and children, he added. He also noted that the existing "Thalli Ki Vandanam" (Mother's Salute) scheme already provides parents with Rs 15,000.

The chief minister's new announcement follows an earlier proposal to offer Rs 25,000 for a second child. On March 5, he informed the Assembly that the government was considering a Rs 25,000 incentive for couples having a second child.

He argued that rising incomes were leading some couples to stop at one child, while others were delaying having a second child unless the first-born was a boy.

He warned that this trend was slowing the state's population growth, and stressed the importance of maintaining a replacement-level total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.1 children per woman.

In March, Naidu unveiled a draft "Population Management" policy that proposed financial incentives at birth of Rs 25,000 for every second child or beyond under the "Poshan Shiksha Suraksha Package".

In new TN Cabinet, Vijay keeps home, Sengottaiyan gets finance

CHENNAI, PTI

In his maiden government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay will handle key portfolios including police, general administration and the welfare of women, youth and children, while veteran leader K A Sengottaiyan has been designated as the Finance Minister, the Lok Bhavan said on Saturday.

By keeping Home for himself, Vijay continues the trend of CMs in TN retaining the important portfolio with themselves.

The portfolios for all 10 ministers, including Vijay, were approved by Governor Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar as per the recommendation of the CM, a Lok Bhavan press release said. The allocations came a week after the council of ministers, led by Vijay, was sworn in on May 10.

However, a string of subjects/portfolios such as Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Excise and Prohibition, Transport, Revenue, Social Welfare, Labour welfare, Housing, Tourism, Information Technology, Handlooms and Textiles, Commercial Taxes, Backward Classes Welfare, Environment, Minorities Welfare and Dairy are yet to be allotted and 24 more ministers can be appointed as the strength of the TN Assembly is 234.

C Joseph Vijay

According to the Lok Bhavan, Vijay will handle public, general administration, police, women and youth welfare, welfare of children, aged, differently abled persons, municipal administration and urban and water supply.

Except for the 78-year-old Sengottaiyan, a veteran politician who had been with the AIADMK for about 50 years before joining the TVK, all others have become ministers for the first time.

N Anand was designated minister for rural development and water resources. Aadhav Arjuna will take care of public works (buildings, highways and minor ports) and sports development. Dr K G Arunraj will be the minister for health, medical education and family welfare, the release said.

P Venkataramanan has been allocated Food and Civil Supplies, while R Nirmalkumar will handle Energy Resources and Law.

Rajmohan shall be the Minister for School Education, Tamil Development, Information and Publicity.

'Parasites' remark not targeted at youth, says CJI

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday said it was totally baseless to suggest that he criticised the youth of the country, while clarifying his 'parasites' remarks.

On Friday, a bench led by the CJI strongly criticised what it termed as increasing and unwarranted attacks on the judiciary and the legal system. The CJI observed that some unemployed youngsters turn into "media, social media, RTI activists and other activists" and begin targeting institutions.

In a statement here, he said, "I am pained to read how a section of the media has misquoted my oral observations made during the hearing of a frivolous case yesterday. What I had specifically criticised were those who have entered professions like the Bar (legal profession) with the aid of fake and bogus degrees."

"Similar persons have sneaked into the media, social media and other noble professions as well, and hence, they are like parasites. It is totally baseless to suggest that I criticised the youth of our nation. Not only am I proud of our present and future human resources, but every youth of India inspires me," he clarified.

India rejects Hague ruling on J&K hydro projects

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Saturday trashed a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague regarding certain hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir, which Pakistan had objected to under the framework of the Indus Waters Treaty.

New Delhi, rejecting the award, said its decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in "abeyance" remains in force.

India has been maintaining that the so-called Court of Arbitration (CoA) to look into the matter was "illegally constituted".

"The illegally constituted so-called Court of Arbitration (CoA) has, on May 15, issued what it termed an award concerning maximum pondage supplemental to the award on issues of general interpretation of the Indus Waters Treaty," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"India categorically rejects the present so-called award, just as it has firmly rejected all prior pronouncements of the illegally constituted CoA," he said.

WATER DISPUTE

- MEA says India has never recognised the establishment of Permanent Court of Arbitration
- Claims that any proceeding, award, or decision issued by the court is null and void
- India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in "abeyance" to remain in force

Jaiswal said India has never recognised the establishment of this "so-called" CoA. "Any proceeding, award, or decision issued by it is null and void. India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance remains in force."

A day after the Pahalgam terror attack, India took a series of punitive measures against Pakistan, including putting the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty in "abeyance". The ruling was known to be in a case related to Pakistan's objections to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects.

PRAISES GALORE

Gen-Z ten times better than our generation: Army Chief

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

COAS General Upendra Dwivedi in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday applauded India's Gen-Z population, noting that they are "10 times better than our generation" and could win the battle for the country in future.

"Let me accept that this generation is at least 10 times better than our generation. They are much more adaptable. They're socially aware, globally connected, and digitally fluent," Gen Dwivedi said at an interactive session at the Manekshaw Centre here in response to a query on Gen-Z youngsters.

The Army Chief said 2026-27 was being observed as the year of networking and data centricity in the force, and a large number of establishments had been opened for internships for the youngsters.

The Army received 1 lakh applications for 100 vacancies.

"Half of the time, they come out with simple solutions. On the battlefield, we require a battlefield equaliser. We don't require tank versus tank. If you give me a simple solution to a difficult problem, I think you are the ones who are going to win the battle for us," he said, praising the generation.

Asked about Pakistan's approach to dealing with terrorism a year after Operation Sindoor, Gen Dwivedi said if Pakistan continued to harbour terrorists and operate against India, they would have to "decide whether they want to be part of geography or history or not".

Gen Dwivedi's remarks carried a blunt message to Pakistan, and reiterated India's stand against terrorism. It is also a reiteration of what Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said a few months ago.

Operation Sindoor was launched early on May 7 last year as India's response to the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. In response, Pakistan launched offensives that the Indian forces successfully countered.

Pocso case: Bandi Sanjay's son surrenders, arrested

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Cyberabad police took Bandi Sai Bageerath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay, into custody on Saturday night in connection with a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act case registered against him.

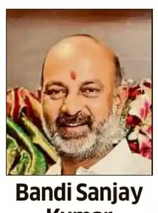
Cyberabad Commissioner of Police P Ramesh Reddy said Bageerath was arrested at the TGPA junction in Narsingi and shifted to the Pet Basheerabad Police Station. Sanjay, however, said his son had surrendered to the police through their lawyers.

Bageerath's arrest follows a denial of interim protection from arrest by a Telangana High Court vacation bench. In a related development, a Medchal court recorded the statement of the survivor, a minor girl, on Saturday.

"Out of respect for the law, I have handed him over to the police for questioning today through our lawyers," Sanjay said in a statement, adding: "Our son keeps saying again and again that he has done nothing wrong."

Earlier in the day, the Cyberabad police issued a lookout notice against Bageerath. Four special teams were to track him down.

Bandi Sai Bageerath



Bandi Sanjay Kumar

They visited Sanjay's Hyderabad and Karimnagar residences in search of the accused.

Bageerath had been absconding since the registration of an FIR on May 8, and has approached the HC seeking interim protection from arrest. A verdict on that petition, however, may be days away. On Friday night, the HC declined to pronounce any orders before thoroughly reviewing the voluminous material submitted by both parties and indicated that a ruling would be delivered at the next sitting of the vacation court, either by May 18 or May 21.

The Friday hearing saw intense arguments from counsel on both sides, with extensive references to Supreme Court and HC precedents on whether anticipatory bail could be granted in Pocso cases.

Cong convinces Chennithala for Home portfolio

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Congress has finally convinced its senior leader Ramesh Chennithala, who lost the race for the chief minister's post to V D Satheesan, to accept the Home portfolio in the new Cabinet.

Satheesan was learnt to have urged Chennithala to join the Cabinet by giving due respect to his seniority and experience. A couple of Chennithala loyalists may also get Cabinet berths. Chennithala had served as home minister in the Oommen Chandy-led UDF government.

India's aspirations no longer limited to its borders: Modi

Flags 'decade of disasters' of Covid pandemic, war and fuel crisis

THE HAGUE, PTI

PM Narendra Modi with his Dutch counterpart Rob Jetten (R) and others during the restitution ceremony of 11th-century Chola dynasty copper plates in The Hague. The 21 copper plates are considered among the most significant surviving records of the Chola dynasty and important artefacts of Tamil heritage held outside India. PTI

Describing India as a "land of opportunities", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the country is undergoing an "unprecedented transformation" and its aspirations are "no longer limited to its borders".

Addressing the Indian community in The Hague, the Prime Minister also said that India is dreaming big and its youth aspires to reach the sky.

"India of the 21st century is a land of opportunities. India is both technology-driven and humanity-driven. India is becoming as modern as it is ancient. Therefore, this is also the time to reconnect with the villages of your ancestors in India, and to participate in the journey towards a developed India," Modi said in his over 40-minute speech.

He urged all "friends of India" in the Netherlands to deepen their engagement with India. "This will strengthen India's capabilities, and it will also bring greater returns on your investments - and this is Modi's guarantee," he said.

"Today, our India too is dreaming on a very grand scale. Today, the nation is saying - we do not seek merely transformation; we seek the best. And not only the best, we want the fastest. That is why, when aspirations in India are unlimited, our efforts too are becoming limitless," he said.

'Quagmire of poverty'

Referring to the Covid pandemic, global conflicts, and the energy crisis caused by the ongoing conflict in West Asia, Modi said this decade is increasingly turning into a "decade of disasters" for the world.

"We can all see that if these conditions are not changed swiftly, the achievements of many past decades could be undone. A very large section of the world's population could once again be pushed into the quagmire of poverty," he warned.

India's aspiration-driven journey is also strengthening its democracy, as he mentioned the recently held Assembly elections in several regions. "When people's dreams are fulfilled, their faith in democracy grows stronger as well," Modi said.

This time, voter turnout in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry ranged between 80 to 90%. Women's participation, in particular, has increased significantly, Modi said, adding that this trend is visible across every state.

Modi also took a jibe at Opposition parties, asking the audience if the popular snack Jhalmuri has reached the Netherlands as well.

NCB seizes 'jihadi drug' captagon worth Rs 182 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted an international drug syndicate involved in trafficking captagon, and seized approximately 227.7 kg of the "jihadi drug" worth Rs 182 crore, said the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday.

Home Minister Amit Shah announced the success on X.

Captagon is the street name historically linked to fenethylline, a synthetic stimulant developed in the 1960s that earned the sobriquet "jihadi drug" due to repeated allegations and intelligence inputs linking its abuse and trafficking with extremist and conflict-zone networks operating in parts of West Asia, sources said.

The terminology emerged because the drug's stimulant effects allegedly enabled users to remain awake for extended periods, suppress fear and exhaustion, increase aggression and risk-taking behaviour, and sustain prolonged combat-like activity under stressful conditions.

The seizure

Sharing the details of the operation, the MHA said in a statement that the NCB received information from a foreign drug law enforcement agency that India was being used as a transit route for trafficking captagon.

A house was identified in Neb Sarai, New Delhi, and was searched on May 11, which led to the recovery of about 31.5 kg of captagon tablets concealed in a commercial chapati-cutting machine. Preliminary investigation suggested that the machine was intended for export to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

The house had been rented by a Syrian national who had entered India on a tourist visa on November 15, 2024. His visa expired on January 12, 2025, and he was illegally staying in India, the MHA said. His questioning led to the recovery of about 196.2 kg of captagon powder from a container in the Container Facilitation Station at Mundra, Gujarat, on May 14.

The MHA said a total of 227.7 kg of Captagon tablets and powder were seized under Operation Ragepill.

Dutch tech giant ASML to support Tata's Rs 91,000-crore chip fab in Guj

NEW DELHI, PTI: Electronics manufacturing company Tata Electronics and Dutch semiconductor equipment major ASML have joined hands to enable chip manufacturing in India, a joint statement said on Saturday.

ASML is known for having monopoly in a category of lithography equipment which is critical for production of advance small size semiconductors.

"Through this partnership, ASML will enable the establishment and successful ramp of Tata Electronics' upcoming 300 mm (12 inch) semiconductor Fab in Dholera, Gujarat. This collaboration is an important step in the context of the intensifying strategic collaboration between India and the Netherlands in the field of critical technologies, such as semiconductor technology," the statement said.

Dutch tech giant ASMLwould deploy its advanced lithography tools in the plant, which enable the rapid mass production of high-tech microchips, found in everything from cars to mobile phones.

Tata Electronics is setting up India's first semiconductor wafer fabrication plant, entailing an investment of Rs 91,000 crore. "The collaboration between Tata Electronics and ASML will focus on deploying ASML's holistic suite of advanced lithography tools and solutions for the Dholera Fab.

The use of ASML's industry-leading technologies is expected to ensure seamless operations at India's first commercial 300 mm semiconductor Fab," the statement said.

Sack Dharmendra Pradhan: Rahul to PM amid NEET row

NEW DELHI, PTI: Amid the NEET paper leak row, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi immediately sack Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan or take personal accountability, and said the "BJP-RSS nexus" had destroyed India's education system.

Rahul Gandhi

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said the hard work of 22 lakh NEET aspirants has gone to waste.

"The whole country knows that two days before NEET, its question paper was being distributed on WhatsApp. Dharmendra Pradhan ji says he has nothing to do with the matter. The (Parliamentary) Committee had made recommendations, but he put it in the dustbin on the pretext that Opposition people were on the committee and that it was of no use," he said in a video statement.

"The truth is that you (government) have damaged the core of India. This is a nexus of the RSS, the BJP and their people that have been installed in universities, vice chancellors and professors, to mint money," he said, adding that this nexus had destroyed India's education system.

"The whole country knows that if you want to become the vice chancellor of a university, you don't need subject knowledge and experience; you just have to be from the RSS. If your ideology is not that of the RSS, then you cannot become a vice chancellor," Gandhi alleged.

This was why exam papers had been leaked and the future of 2 crore youth had been destroyed, Gandhi said. "The PM should immediately order that Dharmendra Pradhan be sacked and the people guilty of this be jailed," he added.

UP prof offers to leak exam paper for girl student, detained

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A teacher at a prestigious university here was detained by the police on Saturday after allegedly offering to leak exam papers to a girl student in exchange for "favours".

According to police sources here, the teacher — identified as Paramjeet Singh, an assistant professor in the Department of Zoology at Lucknow University — made this offer while speaking to a BSc student over the phone on Friday.

An audio clip, purportedly containing the conversation between the two, later went viral on social media.

"Darling, tumhare liye paper out kara diya hai (Darling, I have leaked the paper for you)," the teacher is purportedly heard telling the girl.

The victim lodged a complaint with the university authorities and also submitted the audio clip to them, sources said.

The University's controller of examinations subsequently lodged a police complaint, following which the teacher was detained.

During the call, the teacher allegedly also tried to pressure the girl to meet him, promising "academic benefits", while the girl expressed her inability to do as told.

A group of students belonging to the ABVP and Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha later protested in front of the proctor's office, demanding stern action against the teacher.

The students also smeared black ink on the teacher's face when he arrived there to explain his side of the story. He claimed that he had been the victim of a conspiracy and denied the charges.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE-Proc2/AEE-6/2026-27/850-865 Date: 16.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites Bids **(on Percentage rate basis)** on electronic mode for the following works in a **Combined Package** against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry No. and Name of the work
KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3730

Work-A: Providing **Additional 1x20MVA** Power Transformer at 66/11kV **Malali** sub-station in Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District.

Work-B: Replacement of **2x6.3MVA**, 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA**, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **Hangarahally** sub-station in Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District.

Work-C: Replacement of **2x8MVA**, 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA**, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11 kV **Bychanahally** sub-station in Arakalagudu Taluk, Hassan District.

Work-D: Providing **Additional 1x20MVA** Power Transformer at 66/11kV **Gangur** sub-station in Belur Taluk, Hassan District.

on **Partial Turnkey Basis**, including Supply of all Materials/ Equipments and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials / Equipments, Testing and Commissioning and dismantling of the materials.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **18.05.2026 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech)., Corporate Office, KPTCL, 11th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, A. R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross, West of Chord Road, BWCC, Bengaluru.

No: EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/04/2026-27 Date: 15-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC, Bengaluru for the works detailed below from the registered Contractors of BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / BBMP or any State Government Organizations.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-3)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	Works for Others
1	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs & Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 37, Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar Ward. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.92**
2	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs and Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 38, Nandini Layout. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.92**
3	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs and Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 39, Jaimaruthi Nagara. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.92**
4	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs and Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 41, Nagapura. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.92**
5	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs & Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 42, Raja Mayura Varma Ward. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.92**
6	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs and Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 44, Shankarmutt. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.92**
7	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs and Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 45, Shakthi Ganapathinagara. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.92**
	Work for Reserved for Category-I
8	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs & Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 36, Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.46**
	Work for Reserved for Category-II(A)
9	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs and Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 43, Kethamaranahalli. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.46**
	Works for Reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC)
10	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs and Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 40, Mahalakshmipuram. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.46**
11	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs and Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 46, Kamalanagara. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.46**
	Work for Reserved for Scheduled Tribe (ST)
12	Annual Maintenance of Footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder & Grating Cleaning, Resetting of Broken Slabs and Paver Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 47, Vrushabhavathinagara. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.68, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.46**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 21-05-2026 after 16.30 Hours. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries: **26-05-2026 upto 15.00 Hours. 3)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **26-05-2026 at 15.30 Hours. 4)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **30-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **01-06-2026 after 16.30 Hours through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC.

HUBBALLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, P.B. Road, Navanagar, Hubballi. Phone No: 0836-2223526 Website : www.hescom.co.in
E-Mail ID : seepmc.hescom@gmail.com / eepmc1.hescom@gmail.com CIN : U31401KA2002SGC030437

No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P-1/AEE-2/2025-26/Cys-1533 Dated: 15-05-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through K.P.P. Portal Only)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites the below said tenders on lumpsum and TTK Basis in HESCOM jurisdiction.

Sl.No.	Particulars	Bid Indent No.
1	Arranging power supply to 25KW Commercial Lighting installation in the name of OM FUELS HIDAKAL (IOCL) (Survey No.245/246/6) at Hidakal area in Hidakal Section in Harugeri Sub-Division of Raibag division on Total Turnkey Basis.	HESCOM/2026-27/ EL/ WORK_INDENT1223.

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** after **15.05.2026.**

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Project Monitoring Cell, HESCOM, Hubballi.

DIPR/Dharwad/191/Adverto/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI

No. KMCRI/SUP-6/82/2026-27 Dated 16-05-2026

ಇ–ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್)

1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. DME/2026-27/SE0698/Call-02
2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. DME/2026-27/SE0700/Call-02

2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಆಯ್ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಆಯಾ ವಾರ್ಡಬಾಯ್ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ 01 ಮತ್ತು 03ರ ಮೂಲಕ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ. ದೂ.: 0836–2747944, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eepwddha@gmail.com

ಕ್ರಸಂ: ಕಾನಿಇಂಧಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ.1/2026–27/771 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–05–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

I.F.T – KW –1,2,3,4

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1,2,3,4ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. (kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ.2.28 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ.625.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗೆ, 4059–80–051–0–29–386 ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, 8443 Deposit construction, 4059–80–051–0–60–132, 4059–80–051–0–60–423 (ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ), 4059–80–051–0–60–422 (ಎಸ್.ಪಿ.ಪಿ) ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ, 2059–80–053–4–00–200 ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 5054–80–190–0–01–132 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚ, 5054 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಅಡಿ ಬರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

1. Calender of Events: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
1) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT29190/CALL-4 2) PWD/2025-26/SE1161 3) PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT35487/CALL-2 4) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT35092/Call-3 5) PWD/2024-25/SE0244/CALL-3 6) PWD/2026-27/SE1189/Call-2 7) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31543
1) ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ–ಸಂದೇಹ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–05–2026 (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–05–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–05–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ) 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–05–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)

2. Calender of Events: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
8) PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35679 (Extension) 9) PWD/2026-27/IND0256 10) PWD/2026-27/IND0258 11) PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35403 12) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34943/CALL-2 13) PWD/ 2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34990/CALL-2 14) PWD/2025-26/BD/ WORK_ INDENT34272/Call-2
ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ
15) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33456/CALL-2
ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1
16) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33455/CALL-2
1) ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ–ಸಂದೇಹ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–06–2026 (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–06–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–06–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ) 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–06–2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ **ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ** ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನದಂದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/189/ಮಣಿಹಾಲ್/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.

No. EE/PWD/HSN/A.E-3/2026-27/ DATED: 12.05.2026

SERVICE TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 10/2026-27, Dated: 12.05.2026

Service Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KC-6 from the eligible registered Contractor/Firm through E-procurement for 02 Work, coming under PWD, Hassan Division. The Service Tender minimum tender amount is Rs.35.50 lakhs and maximum tender amount Rs.53.99 lakhs Last date of Receipt of tender is 22.05.2026 till 4.00pm. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/134/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿ/ಕೃರಾನ/ಎ.ಇ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026–27
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12.05.2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ –ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 02/2026–27
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.05.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು K.W –1/K.W-2 (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್) ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳು G.O. No. FD 9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06-08-2005 ಹಾಗೂ ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ (ಸಿವಿಲ್) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **1)** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ (Upload) ಮಾಡುವ ಅಂದಾಜು ದಿ: 13.05.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ **2)** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ನಲ್ಲಿ ದರ ನಮೂದಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 29.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ. **3)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1,2) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 30.05.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 12.30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ. **4)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1,2) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ

ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ.ಕೋಟೆ	ಸರಗೂರು	ಒಟ್ಟು
ಒಟ್ಟುಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	12	03	15
ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	08	03	11
ಪ.ಜಾತಿ	02	0	02
ಪ.ಪಂಗಡ	0	0	0
ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ –1	01	0	01
ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ	01	0	01

ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು, ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08223–262228.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ

DIPR/DDMYS/186/KSMCA/140/2026-27

SHARP SHIFT US president eases rhetoric amid diplomatic push to reset relations

Trump's 'learning curve' on China ends with conciliation at summit

NYT NEWS SERVICE

In 2024, Donald Trump said China was "killing us as a country". Last year, he complained that President Xi Jinping of China was "very tough, and extremely hard to make a deal with". His tariffs on China reached 145% at one point.

The whiplash that followed culminated in the pageantry in Beijing this week.

As Air Force One took off from the Chinese capital on Friday, it remained unclear what deals, if any, President Trump had clinched with Xi. But the two-day summit in Beijing underscored how far he has shifted the foundations of US policy toward China in the wake of his humbling retreat from last year's trade war. He has cast aside the adversarial approach of his first years in office, the Biden administration and the beginning of his own second term.

What's more, he has largely waved aside the warnings outlined in the Pentagon's annual unclassified assessment of China's capabilities and intentions, which lays out a plan to push the US out of the Western Pacific, engulf Taiwan, claim more territory in the South China Sea and escalate cyberattacks on the US. He acknowledges that these threats are real. He has simply reversed his view of how to deal with them.

In Beijing, Trump applauded Chinese children waving American flags, toasted the "special relationship" between the American and Chinese people, called Xi a "great leader" and exclaimed that the garden where he walked with Xi held "the most beautiful roses anyone's ever seen". When Trump introduced the Chinese leader to the roughly 17 American executives who came to Beijing, he said they had joined him "to pay respects to you, China".

US President Donald Trump walks with Chinese President Xi Jinping upon arrival at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. REUTERS

Trump said nothing publicly in Beijing about Taiwan, even as Xi sharply warned that disagreement over the self-governing democracy could lead to a "clash". Trump boasted of large Chinese purchases of soybeans and Boeing aircraft, though details were scant — just his own account of his wins, conveyed to reporters on Air Force One soon after take-off from Beijing. Xi's government did not confirm the purchases.

And Trump insisted that Beijing and Washington were on the same page on Iran, even as the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Friday reiterated its position that his war "should not have happened in the first place".

Taken together, the image of a deferential US president and a confident Chinese leader reflected Xi's success, despite his country's bleak economic outlook, in derailing the hawkish approach to China that Trump adopted at the start of his second term.

The tone the two men set, in what could be the first of four meetings this year, suggested they would work to defuse years of built-up tension — some of which Trump helped create — even as the Iran war has created a new potential flashpoint. John Delury, a historian of East Asia, said that even though the summit had produced few tangible outcomes in terms of economic deals or political agreements, it had the potential to shape the geopolitical mood in both China and the US. Trump's friendly remarks about Xi and the Chinese people were being amplified in China's state-controlled media, sending the message that "we're getting along better with the Americans", said Delury, a senior fellow at the Asia Society.

And in the United States, Trump was telling voters who previously heard him describe China as a sinister and destructive force that it was a country the US should do business with. The Washington narrative about "decoupling" — the idea that the United States should unwind its economic ties to China — appeared to belong to a bygone era. "You don't pack Air Force One with your biggest business leaders when you're decoupling," Delury said. "Trump is sending that message to his people — and to some extent the whole country — that we can get along with China even though we're still going to compete."

The US entered the summit hoping to persuade China to do more to get Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and stabilise global energy markets, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on the flight to Beijing this week. China, meanwhile, hoped Trump might nudge US policy on Taiwan in Beijing's favour.

There was no evidence that China had changed its position on Iran, even though Trump asserted that he and Xi "feel very similar" about it. On Air Force One, Trump did not name a single way in which Xi had agreed to change the situation on the ground — or whether China had agreed to stop giving Iran access to satellite imagery that helps it target US forces and Persian Gulf states. China's Foreign Ministry said that West Asia's "shipping channels should be reopened as soon as possible", but it did not indicate that it would put more pressure on Iran.

Trump did not comment on Taiwan until reporters asked him about it on the flight from Beijing, at which point he offered little reassurance to those hoping for a robust US defence of Taiwan's democracy.

Ties with India will depend on Ganges treaty renewal: BNP

Ruling party seeks new water treaty with India

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh's ruling BNP on Saturday said the country's relations with India "will depend on" a new Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, as it called for immediate talks with New Delhi on an agreement aligned with Dhaka's "expectations and needs".

The Indo-Bangladesh Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, signed in 1996, is due to expire in December. "We want to send a clear message to the Indian government that a new Ganges treaty must be implemented immediately through discussions in line with the expectations and needs of the people of Bangladesh," Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at an event in Dhaka.

The opportunity to establish good relations with India "will depend on the signing of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty or the Farakka Agreement", said Alamgir, who also serves as the local government, rural development and cooperatives minister.

He alleged that uncertainty over the renewal of the existing 30-year Ganges water treaty, signed during the tenure of the now-disbanded Awami League government led by deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, was raising concerns about future water-sharing arrangements.

He said the current agreement should remain in force until a new treaty is signed and suggested that future water-sharing agreements between the two neighbours should not be restricted to a fixed tenure.

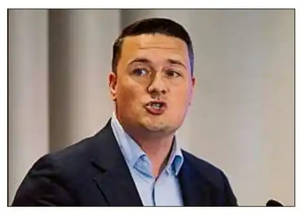
The Ganges, known as the Padma after entering Bangladesh, is a major river system in the lower riparian deltaic nation, criss-crossed by hundreds of rivers, including 54 that originate in or flow through India.

Alamgir said nearly one-third of Bangladesh's 170 million people depended on the river system for livelihoods, biodiversity and water supply to several distributaries.

Streeting joins race to replace Starmer

LONDON, AFP

Wes Streeting, who resigned as the UK's health secretary this week, announced on Saturday that he will run to replace Keir Starmer as Labour leader and prime minister after the party suffered disastrous local election results.



Britain's former Health Secretary Wes Streeting in London on Saturday. REUTERS

Streeting quit the government on Thursday with a withering assessment of Starmer's leadership, but no other senior minister followed suit and the 43-year-old MP did not immediately trigger a leadership contest. Later that day, Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham unveiled a bid to become an MP which, if successful, would allow the 56-year-old from the left of the party to stand in the contest.

While still not announcing that he has formally launched the leadership challenge process, Streeting confirmed on Saturday that he will vie to replace Starmer and become the centre-left Labour Party's new leader.

"We need a proper contest with the best candidates on the field, and I'll be standing," Streeting said during a speech and question-and-answer session at a think tank event in London.

Taiwan insists it is independent

TAIPEI, AFP: Taiwan said on Saturday that it is an "independent" nation, hours after US President Donald Trump warned the democratic island against declaring formal independence.

Trump wrapped up a state visit to Beijing on Friday, where Chinese President Xi Jinping had pressed him not to support Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory.

Taiwan "is a sovereign and independent democratic nation, and is not subordinate to the People's Republic of China", Taiwan's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry also insisted that US weapons sales were part of Washington's security commitment to Taiwan after Trump said the island "depends on China" and was a "very good negotiating chip for us".

Hamas military leader killed

TEL AVIV, AFP: An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed the leader of Hamas' military wing who was one of the last surviving architects of the October 7, 2023 attacks.

Hamas confirmed the death of Izz al-Din al-Haddad. He was killed on Friday, Israel's army said, describing him as one of the senior commanders who directed the deadly attacks on Israel.

IS leader killed in joint US-Nigeria operation

WASHINGTON/ MAIDUGURI, AP/PTI: US and Nigerian forces killed a leader of the Islamic State group in Nigeria in a mission carried out on Friday, US President Donald Trump said on Saturday.

Trump announced the joint operation in Africa's most populous country in a late-night social media post. He said Abu Bakr al-Mainuki was second-in-command of the IS globally and "thought he could hide in Africa, but little did he know we had sources who kept us informed on what he was doing".

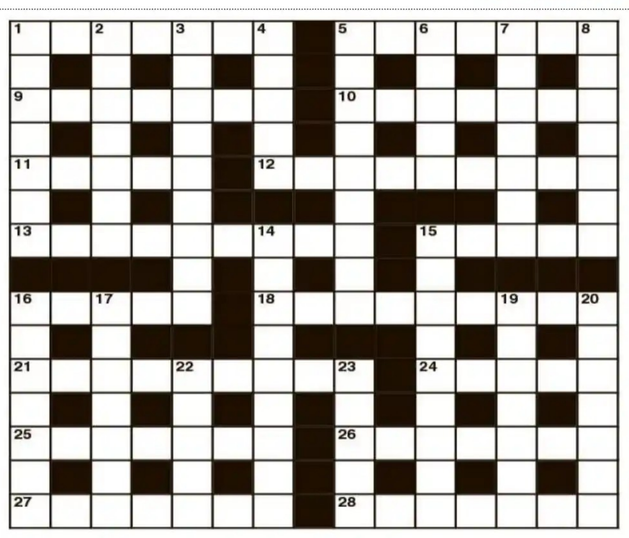
Al-Mainuki was viewed as a key figure in IS organisation, and had been plotting attacks against the US and its interests.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu confirmed the operation and said al-Mainuki was killed alongside "several of his lieutenants" during a strike on his compound in the Lake Chad Basin.

42 students abducted

A lawmaker from a restive Nigerian northeastern region on Saturday confirmed the kidnapping by suspected militants of dozens of children, putting the number of those snatched at 42. Locals said that jihadists raided a school and seized between 35 and 43 children.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2680 ◆



ACROSS

1 Legacy (7)
5 Gaunt (7)
9 Free time (7)
10 Aware (7)
11 Saunter (5)
12 An unlikely tale (4,5)
13 Hold off (4,2,3)
15 Old hat (5)
16 Stage in development (5)
18 Central American republic (5,4)
21 Then and there (2,3,4)
24 Courage (5)
25 Self-confident (7)
26 Armed hostilities (7)
27 Most important (7)
28 Quell (7)

DOWN

1 Defensive wall (7)
2 Petty objection (7)
3 Mention one by one (9)
4 Apply medical care to (5)
5 South Asian mountain system (9)
6 A kind (5)
7 An open insult (7)
8 Held up (7)
14 Reverse one's earlier stance (4-5)
15 A dangerous structure (9)
16 Unimaginative (7)
17 Craftsman (7)
19 Utterly confused (2,1,4)
20 Without guile (7)
22 Mistaken opinion (5)
23 Rise to great height (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4040

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 9, Have a s-hot 10, Lie still 12, Wind 13, S-p-lash 14, Lighter 15, Rasp-berry 17, Rubbed out 18, D-isda-in 20, May-fly 21, Ac-h(ot)-e 24, Picked up 26, Last word 28, Over 29, B-and-it 31, H-its o-ut 34, First love 36, Big cheese 38, Retreat 39, Stress 40, Rent 41, Old-timer 42, Too l-ittle.

DOWN: 1, Showe-re-d 2, Even-tS 3, Chape-ron 4, Steady 5, Old Harry 6, Hell's bells 7, Sta-gge-r 8, Blotto 11, Brother 16, B-L-ank's 19, Shine 20, Mop 22, Car-go 23, Switch 25, Dead on time 26, Lit 27, Con-form 30, Dressers 31, High spot 32, Twenties 33, At-tests 35, Rattle 36, Be-re-ts 37, Erects.

PUZZLE

ACROSS: 9, Artichoke 10, Diabetes 12, Arid 13, Chilli 14, Tactile 15, Frenchman 17, Balalaika 18, Nurture 20, Endive 21, Kiwi 24, Revolver 26, Barbaric 28, Apse 29, Abrade 31, Kestrel 34, Checkmate 36, Apartheid 38, Stealth 39, Unjust 40, Slob 41, Clarinet 42, Successor.

DOWN: 1, Paraffin 2, Strive 3, Bonhomie 4, Berlin 5, Ad-libbed 6, Cantilever 7, Pencils 8, Gemini 11, Ceramic 16, Coupon 19, Reeds 20, Ear 22, Icier 23, Basset 25, Vibraphone 26, Bee 27, Fascism 30, Adequate 31, Knapsack 32, Ladybird 33, Skylark 35, Evenly 36, Adjust 37, Enlist.

SU DO KU X - 3918

	6			4				
		5		6		3		
8								
				8				
7								
2		1						
		8			2			
4		2		1				
9	3		4			7		

SOLUTION TO 3917

4	6	1	9	2	5	8	7	3
3	9	7	6	4	8	5	2	1
5	2	8	1	3	7	9	6	4
1	4	5	3	9	6	2	8	7
6	8	3	2	7	4	1	9	5
2	7	9	5	8	1	3	4	6
9	5	4	7	1	2	6	3	8
7	1	2	8	6	3	4	5	9
8	3	6	4	5	9	7	1	2

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ದೂ : 08232-226749, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :1800-4253795 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್-08232-221617
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.mandyacity.mrc.gov.in Email: htstaff u\b mandyauryahoo.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಸಮಂ/ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ/ಟೆಂಡರ್-10/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.05.2026

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಐ.ಡಿ.ಪಿ) ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು KTTP Act 1999 & 2000ರಂತೆ. ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು KW-3,4ರ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **16.06.2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.mandyacity.mrc.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
01	DMA/2025-26/OW/ WORK_INDENT54177	430.00	364.31	5,47,000/-
02	DMA/2025-26/RD/ WORK_INDENT56914	83.00	70.74	1,42,000/-
03	DMA/2025-26/RD/ WORK_INDENT43005	341.39	286.85	4,31,000/-

ಸಹಿ/-
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨ಇ/ಮಂಡ್ಯ/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/131/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

No.: ACF/Tender/CR-01/2025-26 Date: 15.05.2026

Short-Term Re-E-Tender (Call-3) Notice (Through e-Procurement Portal)

As per the expected grant for the year 2026-27 under various heads, including changes in the places of work mentioned in the e-Procurement Portal, short-term re-tenders are invited for Sapling, Plantation Creation, Plantation Maintenance, and Maintenance of Saplings of different sizes from interested forest contractors registered with the Forest Department under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 2000, for the year 2025-26. The contractors should have experience in growing saplings of various sizes in the Forest Department, carrying out preliminary plantation works and similar tendered works, and should possess the necessary facilities to grow saplings in the area where the work is to be carried out. The last date for submission of tenders for the said works is 22.05.2026 up to 4.00 PM. For further information, this office may be contacted during office hours. Details regarding the tender can also be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/67/05/235

Karnataka Public Work Department
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises) O/O Executive Engineer PWD Division, Hosapete, Dist:-Vijayanagara

No:EE/PWD/Dn/Hosapete/TND/ AE-2 /2026-27/575 Date:- 13.05.2026

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited by undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara Dist, for the works notified in the statement below. The bid shall be in One or Two Cover system namely technical bid and financial bid through KPP Portal, following the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)	Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
RESERVE FOR SC Category			RESERVE FOR 2-A Category		
1	PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT35901	30.00	2	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT36092	25.00
General Works					
3	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT35939	200.00	12	PWD/2023-24/SE0036	12.65
4	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT33306/CALL-2	250.00	13	PWD/2026-27/SE1213	4.23
5	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT36100	100.00	14	PWD/2026-27/SE1275	2.50
6	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT36091	50.00	15	PWD/2026-27/SE1276	1.50
7	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT36089	25.00	16	PWD/2026-27/SE1278	1.00
8	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35873	190.00	17	PWD/2026-27/SE1279	3.00
9	PWD/2026-27/SE1272	1.69	18	PWD/2026-27/SE1280	2.00
10	PWD/2026-27/SE1269	2.96	19	PWD/2026-27/SE	4.20
11	PWD/2026-27/SE1241	11.30	20	PWD/2026-27/SE	4.50

1.Quarries of Tender On: **As Per kppp Portal.** Pre-Bid Meeting: **20.05.2026 @ 16.00 Hours.** 2.Last Date of Tender Submission On: **22.05.2026 @ 16.30 Hours.** 3.Tender Opening date On: **25.05.2026 @ 10.30 Hours.** 4.Financial Bid Opening Date: **As Per kppp Portal.**

Note: If any changes either in Tender date, Retender or any other conditions , Tenderers shall be viewed in kppp Portal, No Separate Advertisement / Notification will be published.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara District.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/80

"This is where the pressure is really on everyone. And you can see some crazy things happen. So we're still (in with) a chance... we still have belief.

MIKE HUSSEY, CSK BATTING COACH

Allen blitz keeps Knights alive

GT's strong chase fizzles out despite Gill, Buttler fifties

KOLKATA, PTI

Finn Allen's breathtaking 93 and Angkrish Raghuvanshi's equally engaging 82 were the differentiators as Kolkata Knight Riders made Gujarat Titans pay heavily for their sloppy fielding to secure a 29-run win, keeping their slender playoff hopes alive in the IPL match here on Saturday.

Allen's explosive 35-ball knock laid the platform before Raghuvanshi, whose unbeaten innings came off 44 balls, and Cameron Green (52 not out; 28b) finished strongly. They added 108 runs off just 53 balls, lifting KKR to a season-best 247 for two.

In reply, skipper Shubman Gill (85, 49b), Jos Buttler (57, 35b) and Sai Sudharsan (53 n.o., 28b) fought well, but GT had to settle for 218 for four.

The victory meant that KKR now have 11 points from 12 matches, moving up to seventh on the table. But they will have to win their remaining two matches to remain in contention for a knockout stage berth. GT retained their second place on the table with 16 points with a game left.

In their massive chase, Gujarat Titans responded positively despite an early setback when in-form opener Sai Sudharsan retired hurt on 23 after being struck on the elbow by pacer Kartik Tyagi. Though the left-handed batter returned to the crease later.

At the other end, Gill produced a batting masterclass to keep GT in the hunt as the elegant right-hander smashed five fours and seven sixes, while Buttler was equally effective in a 128-run partnership for the second wicket that came off just 73 balls.

After playing out four dot balls against Narine early on, he broke free with a slog-sweep over cow corner before stepping down the track to launch another six over long-on. The right-hander also tore into Varun Chakravarthy, hammering two sixes and two fours in one over.

GT remained firmly in the chase despite KKR's Matheesha Pathirana, who came in as the Impact Sub for Finn Allen, suffered a hamstring injury during his second over and had to walk out.

Gill's superb innings finally ended when Narine lured him into a false shot, with Anukul Roy taking a well-judged catch at fine leg as the spinner returned with 2/29 in his landmark 200th match for KKR.

Sudharsan returned after Gill's dismissal and briefly revived hopes by taking 21 runs off Tyagi, while Buttler also reached his fifty in style with a four and a six off the pacer.

However, Buttler's dismissal in the 19th over effectively ended GT's hopes as KKR closed out a vital win on their home return.

Asked to bowl first by Gill on a sticky surface that had remained under covers after rain, Gujarat's disciplined attack struggled badly as poor catching compounded their problems during KKR's relentless batting display.

Allen (93, 35b) set the tone as the home side raced to 100 in nine overs, then they took just eight overs to get to 200 with Green-Raghuvanshi combine doing well.

Allen survived a difficult chance on 14 when Jason Holder got fingertips to a sharp opportunity at cover off Mohammed Siraj. The Kiwi opener then tore into Kagiso Rabada, launching successive sixes -- one straight over mid-off and another whipped over midwicket off a 149kph delivery -- to race to 28 from just 11 balls.

Kolkata Knight Riders' Finn Allen sends one into the stands during his innings of 93 off 35 balls against Gujarat Titans at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Saturday. AFP

Sunil Narine bagged player of the match award for his economical 2/29 haul against Gujarat Titans. AFP

SCORE BOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: Ajinkya Rahane b Siraj 14, Finn Allen c Rashid b Sai Kishore 93, Angkrish Raghuvanshi (not out) 82, Cameron Green (not out) 52. Extras (LB-1, W-4, NB-1) 6. **TOTAL (for 2 wkts, 20 Overs) 247.**

Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-139.

Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 4-0-50-1, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-40-0, Jason Holder 4-0-39-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-57-0, Ravisrinivasan Sai Kishore 3-0-38-1, Arshad Khan 1-0-22-0.

GUJARAT TITANS: Sai Sudharsan (not out) 53, Shubman Gill c Anukul b Narine 85, Nishant Sindhu c Pandey b Narine 1, Jos Buttler c (sub) Ramandeep b Saurabh 57, Rahul Tewatia c Raghuvanshi b Cameron Green 2. Extras (B-1, LB-8, W-11) 20. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 20 overs) 218.**

Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-177, 3-207, 4-218.

Bowling: Saurabh Dubey 2.4-0-23-1, Cameron Green 3-0-25-1, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-59-0, Matheesha Pathirana 1.2-0-9-0, Sunil Narine 4-0-29-2, Varun Chakaravarthy 4-0-47-0, Anukul Roy 1-0-17-0.

Result: KKR won by 29 runs

PoM: Sunil Narine

Challengers out to seal playoff berth

Punjab hope to break five-match losing streak

LIVE 3:30 PM

DHARAMSALA, PTI

Royal Challengers Bengaluru would look to exploit vulnerabilities of a profligate Punjab Kings bowling line up to seal the playoffs berth in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

In the only day game scheduled at the scenic Dharamsala stadium, the top draw without an iota doubt is Virat Kohli, fresh off a hundred in the previous game.

A sizeable number of fans have already made their way up to the mountains from Delhi and Punjab to see the larger than life Kohli bat in the breathtaking backdrop of Dhauladhar range.

The limited infrastructure in place in the city is pushed to its limits.

Defending champions, the only team which has maintained consistency throughout the tournament, are clear favourites against Punjab Kings, who are in a freefall having lost five games in a row after being the most dominant team in the first half of the tournament.

While RCB are sitting comfortable on the points table, a sixth loss for Punjab Kings would effectively shut the playoff door on the Shreyas Iyer-led Punjab.

In both the games played here, Punjab Kings failed to defend 210 and 200 after failing to control the last five overs. In fact, they have lost the most the numbers of games (10) after posting 200 plus total in the format's history.

The team needs to rejig its bowling combination with the likes of Xavier Bartlett and Marco Jansen proving expensive throughout the tournament. Arshdeep Singh has managed to bring his economy rate under 10 with his frugal returns in the last game while Azmatullah Omarzai made instant impact with bat and ball in his first game of the season.

Vijaykumar Vyshak has been out of the side and perhaps the team goes back to him in search of much needed control in the middle and death overs.

The batting department, which has done well overall, is not firing on all cylinders in the last few games but it is the bowling that has let the team down repeatedly.

The pitch has offered seam movement thus far and was on the slower side in the MI-PBKS fixture.

RCB, on other hand, are playing like a well oiled machine. Kohli, at 37 years of age, continues to redefine consistency, having smashed a 60-ball 105 against KKR in Raipur.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli, on the back of a fine hundred, will eye another good batting show against Punjab Kings on Sunday. PTI

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers	12	8	4	0	16	1.053
Gujarat Titans	13	8	5	0	16	0.400
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	7	5	0	14	0.331
Punjab Kings	12	6	5	1	13	0.355
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Chennai Super Kings	12	6	6	0	12	0.027
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	6	1	11	-0.038
Delhi Capitals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.993
Mumbai Indians	12	4	8	0	8	-0.504
Lucknow Super Giants	12	4	8	0	8	-0.701

Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will be the cynosure against Delhi Capitals. PTI

DC take on Royals in do-or-die game

NEW DELHI, PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's audacious strokeplay will come up against seam-and-swing master Mitchell Starc as Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals lock horns in a high-stakes IPL "Sunday Suspense" clash with playoff hopes hanging by a thread.

While DC's qualification chances (10 points from 12 games) are already slim, a defeat would officially knock them out of the playoff race.

For the Royals (12 points from 11 games), the week-long break is expected to have rejuvenated the squad. They would not want DC to play party poopers and allow Punjab Kings (13 points from 12 games) to breathe easy.

No teenager since the genius Sachin Tendulkar has captured the public imagination quite like the schoolboy from Samastipur in Bihar, who already boasts a sizeable fan base.

DC's fan base remains something of a paradox in the IPL's 19 years of existence. When Royal Challengers Bengaluru play at the Kotla, the crowd rallies behind Virat Kohli, while the arrival of Chennai Super Kings turns the stands canary yellow, with jerseys bearing the iconic No. 7 of MS Dhoni dominating the scene.

Having failed to build an organic fan base, it is hardly surprising that fans queueing up at the Kotla turnstiles would be there to watch their chubby-cheeked hero in the flesh for the first time.

But amid this hype, the subplot that will intrigue one and all would be how Starc can stop a marauding Sooryavanshi, who has hit 40 sixes in 11 games while scoring 440 runs at a stunning strike-rate of 236.55.

Over the years, Starc has blown hot and cold during IPL seasons. There have been matches where he has been taken to the cleaners by unheralded Indian batters, and there have been matches like the 2024 IPL final, when he set up KKR's title win with the most memorable opening spell in nearly two decades.

One wouldn't know which Starc would turn up this Sunday but if it is the 'Test bowler' Mitchell Starc, then Sooryavanshi will have some really tough problems to solve.

If the Aussie veteran, with more than 400 Test victims, gets early seam and swing, it will be a test of Sooryavanshi's technique as the teenager's game is more about hand-eye co-ordination than footwork.

Of late, DC have been playing on tracks which aren't exactly very high-scoring but the lack of bite in their international spin attack, comprising Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav, has been the problem.

Narasimha stars in Victoria FC win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Narasimha L netted four goals as Victoria FC thrashed Yelahanka FC 6-0 in a Group C match of the KSFA C Division League Championships at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Saturday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: North Zone: Group C: Victoria FC: 6 (Narasimha L 1st, 8th, 28th, 32nd, Paguth Srivslagan 15th, George Khongsai 56th) bt Yelahanka FC: 0; Ronaldo FC Bengaluru: 4 (ManglenLal Kipgen 6th, 31st, Sanju Kumar S 30th, Kotagiri Siddarth 42nd) bt Annsh Sports Club: 2 (Arun Roy Patrick 44th, Arun Kumar K 54th) Play 365: 1 (Muhammed Shan MP 59th) bt Black Moon: 0.
Group D: Blue Diamond FC: 1 (Driyan 60th+1) drew with DB United FC: 1 (Johnson S 16th pen); RVFC: 1 (Manivannan 39th) bt MRFC: 0; Agniputhra FA: 3 (Arvind H 8th, Panalavan S 12th, 29th) bt Pioneer FC Bangalore: 0.

BDFA C Division

The BDFA C Division League Championship kicks off on Tuesday with 80 teams participating.

All the teams are divided into 16 groups of five teams each with the group winners qualifying for the knockout stages.

The tournament kicks off with Gouthamma FC taking on Misska United FC in the opening match in Group 1.

Bengaluru sign off with victory over Chennaiyin

CHENNAI, PTI

Bengaluru FC signed off their Indian Super League 2025-26 campaign with a 2-1 victory over Chennaiyin FC here on Saturday.

Ryan Williams and debutant Serto Worneilen Kom scored for the Blues, while Daniel Chima Chukwu found the net for the hosts in the first half.

The result provisionally moves Bengaluru FC to the top of the table with 23 points from 13 matches, while Chennaiyin concluded their league campaign in 13th place with nine points.

Attention will now shift to Sunday's Kolkata derby between East Bengal FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant, which could have a major bearing on the standings.

The Blues made a bright and assertive start, pushing Chennaiyin deep into their own half and dictating the early rhythm of the contest. Bengaluru FC continued to look more threatening in open play.

Despite Bengaluru's pressure, it was Chennaiyin who struck first in the 34th minute. A well-constructed counterattack saw Maheson Singh Tongbram release Mandar down the left, who then delivered a precise cutback into the centre.

Chukwu arrived to finish from close range into an open net, giving the hosts the lead.

Bengaluru responded positively and continued to probe.

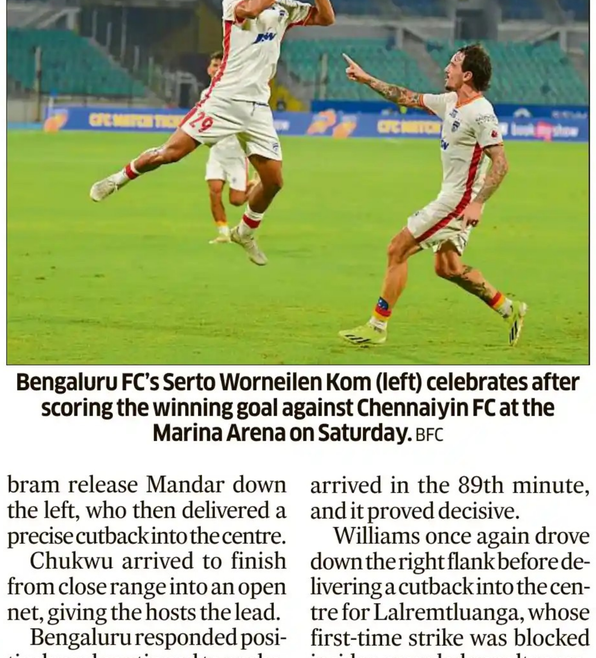
The equaliser arrived in the 43rd minute. Lalremtluanga found space in the final third and slipped a composed pass into Williams inside the box, who finished confidently into the far corner to mark his 50th ISL appearance in style.

The breakthrough finally arrived in the 89th minute, and it proved decisive.

Williams once again drove down the right flank before delivering a cutback into the centre for Lalremtluanga, whose first-time strike was blocked inside a crowded penalty area.

The rebound, however, fell kindly for Worneilen on the right side, who marked his ISL debut with a late winner to hand Bengaluru a hard-fought victory.

Result: Chennaiyin FC: 1 (Daniel Chima Chukwu 33rd) lt to Bengaluru FC: 2 (Ryan Williams 42nd, Serto Kom 88th).



Bengaluru FC's Serto Worneilen Kom (left) celebrates after scoring the winning goal against Chennaiyin FC at the Marina Arena on Saturday. BFC

PCB's Naqvi to virtually attend ICC Meeting

NEW DELHI, PTI: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi will not travel to Ahmedabad for the ICC Annual Board Meeting, scheduled to be held on May 31 on the sidelines of the IPL final.

However, it is learnt that Naqvi will attend the ICC Board of Directors meeting through video conference, a provision that has always existed for member representatives who are unable to travel.

The ICC meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Doha last month but had to be postponed because of the prevailing crisis in West Asia.

Macneil slams 249 in Cambridge CC's massive win

BENGALURU, DHNS

Macneil Noronha hammered a 113-ball 249 in Cambridge CC's 318-run victory over Hammonds CC in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy for Group I - I, II, III division and qualifiers from fourth and fifth division clubs.

Macneil's knock took Cambridge to 448 all out in 50 overs. In response, Hammonds were bowled out for 130 in 43.4 overs.

Macneil Noronha

Brief scores: Cambridge: 448 all out in 50 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 249, Sukruth J 79, Rehan Mohammed 24; Kedarnath B Todakar 2-70, Ishan Chanana 2-57) bt Hammonds: 130 all out in 34.4 overs (Vishruth Uday Krishna 44, Dhanush Subramanya 36; Pranav Aswath 4-36, Shubham Kumar Sinha 2-36). Chintamani SA: 397/9 in 50 overs (Revanth Bairy 159, Aaron Cyril Christie 155; P Jayanth Abhiram 3-79, Krish Rao 3-60, Dheeganth S Mavinkere 2-79) bt City Gymkhana: 159 all out in 31 overs (Siddhanth Smaran 35, Vedaraj K Yadav 26; Abhishek HP 5-22, Ajay Bhide 4-46). Minerva: 249 all out in 47 overs (Arnav Bharadwaj 65, Darshan R 35, Shaurya NS 34 n.o., Smaran Ramesh 28; Tarun Manohar 3-40, Vishruth M 2-62, Gagan Suresh Kumar 2-55) bt Bangalore Indian: 164 all out in 42.2 overs (Ashwin Tantry 46; Shaurya N S 3-31, Karthik J 3-21, Kushal Gouda 2-37).
South End: 305 all out in 45.3 overs (Shashank BK 128, Nagarjun TM 67, Stalin Hoover 42; Aravind JP 6-66, Syed Ghouse 2-48) bt Wilson Garden: 255 all out in 50 overs (Aravind J P 66, Sharana Basava 46, Akshay A Kamath 43, Dhruv A S 32; Manu N 2-62, Yathish 2-46, Vikas Gowda S 2-42, Pradeep G 2-48, Prajwal R 2-7).
Whirlwind Cricketers: 279 all out in 50 overs (Tejas Reddy 116, Shrikara 35, Banesh SP 32; Raunak 4-29) bt Friends Cricket Team: 223/8 in 50 overs (Vaishnav D Sanghamiitra 42, Bharath YM 41 n.o., Raunak 35; Babu Gaddam 4-36, Nagaraj Hegde 2-39).
Chamarajpet CC: 224 all out in 45.5 overs (Akhilesh V 99, Shiva Kumar N 41, Ashwin Kumar 40; Anirudha A Joshi 4-14, Vinayak Pande 2-44, Mohammed Faiz 2-24, Raghavendra N 2-50) lt to Bangalore SC: 230/4 in 35.2 overs (Anirudha A Joshi 136, Yuvraj R 43, Manoj M 32 n.o.; Pracheth M 2-61).
Bangalore Occasionals: 242 all out in 47.2 overs (Rajvir Wadhwa 73, Melu Kranthi Kumar 40, Suraj Ahuja 36; Amrith Praveen 4-46, Ronak Yelwal 4-54) bt Friends Union (1): 240 all out in 49.1 overs (Dhruv Modhe 61 n.o., Sidharth Akhil 59, Shivratana 37, Anil IG 26; Naveen MG 2-35, Melu Kranthi Kumar 2-36, Naman GD 2-47).
Jayanagar United Cricketers: 113 all out in 29.4 overs (Chaitanya K 38; Sachin Shinde 5-14, Nathan D'Mello 3-30, Dhruv P 2-4) lt to Vijaya Cricket Club: 115/1 in 9.3 overs (Anvay Dravid 53 n.o., Dhruv Krishnan 48).
Neptune Cricket Club: 161 all out in 30.1 overs (Prabhu Sasalatti 42 n.o., Ajay Gouda 25; Malikarjun Hatti 3-27, Lavish Kaushal 2-31, Vaibhav Sharma 2-18) lt to Bangalore United Cricket Club (1): 162/2 in 24.1 overs (Sharath Srinivas 67, Kishan S Bedare 56 n.o., Abhinav Manohar 28 n.o.).

Shubhan leads Whirldwind charge over Friends Union (2)

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shubhan Hiremath's century led Whirldwind Cricketers to a 145-run victory over Friends Union (2) during the KSCA U-16 Inter-Club tournament here.

Shubhan (121 runs off 124 balls) anchored the Whirldwind innings to 322 for the loss of seven wickets in 50 overs.

LOCAL CRICKET

In response, Friends Union were 177 all out in 33.2 overs with Saketh Chandramouli (3/28) doing most of the damage.

Brief scores: Whirlwind Cricketers: 322/7 in 50 overs (Vikyath Gowda V 58, Shubhan Hiremath 121, Sidharth Nayaka NS 45, Darpan Gowda S 2-36, Samarth Srikantha 3-53) bt Friends Union (2): 177 all out in 33.2 overs (Nabhanyu 32, Dishant Anilkumar 83; Sidharth Nayaka NS 2-34, Pratham Nayak M 2-40, Saket Chandramouli 3-28).
Modern CC: 190 all out in 46.5 overs (Aarin Sen 57; Vardhan M Jayaram 4-32, Sai Shishir 2-20) bt Young Cricketers (1): 176 all out in 43.4 overs (Avankumar Nirmal 31, Praveen T 38; Lukesh D 4-24, Suriyha M 2-34, Aarin Sen 2-26, Suraj Ajay Kumar 2-6).
City Cricketers (2): 105 all out in 28.3 overs (Rahul Jena 2-23, Vignesh Subhramaniyan 3-10) lt to Young Lions Club: 108/0 in 12.3 overs (Deekshith Gowda HD 38 n.o., Shivaraj R 66 n.o.).
Swastic Union (1): 361/6 in 50 overs (Samarth Suresh 119, Nitish Arya 76, Saachin S Araganji 49, Aadyot Pandey 39, P Dakshith Narayan 27 n.o., Reyansh Sharath 2-72) bt Vijaya CC, Malur: 203 all out in 36.4 overs (Abhaychandra Kallapura 85; Vidhat S 2-42, Neev Bhattacharjee 4-44, Diganth R 2-28).

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Semenyo's magic moment fires City to FA Cup glory

Guardiola wins 20th trophy in his glittering decade as the club's manager

LONDON, AFP

Manchester city players pose with the FA Cup after defeating Chelsea 1-0 in the final at the Wembley Stadium on Saturday. REUTERS

Antoine Semenyo produced one of the great FA Cup final goals with an audacious back-flick that sealed Manchester City's 1-0 win against Chelsea at Wembley on Saturday.

Semenyo illuminated a largely scrappy final late in the second half as he improvised a sublime finish to caress Erling Haaland's cross into the net.

The Ghana winger's moment of magic was enough to clinch City's eighth FA Cup triumph and their second piece of silverware this season after the League Cup final win over Arsenal in March.

Semenyo joins Ricky Villa, Michael Owen, Roberto Di Matteo and Steven Gerrard among the ranks of iconic FA Cup final goalscorers.

Ironically, the 26-year-old -- an inspired signing from Bournemouth in the January window -- was born just a stone's throw from Chelsea's Stamford Bridge home in west London.

The third FA Cup success of Guardiola's reign ended City's run of two successive defeats in the final against Crystal Palace and Manchester United.

Guardiola, who also lifted the trophy in 2023 and 2019, has now won 20 trophies in his glittering decade as City manager.

His attention will turn back to City's slender hopes of making it 21 pieces of silverware with a miracle in the Premier League title race.

City, on a 21-game unbeaten domestic run, will be five points behind leaders Arsenal if the Gunners beat relegated Burnley at home on Monday.

Guardiola's men can close the gap back to two points with a victory at Bournemouth in their penultimate match of the season on Tuesday.

But Arsenal would still guarantee their first English title since 2004 by winning at Palace on May 24.

Ahead of his 24th trip to Wembley with City, Guardiola joked that he was "so disappointed" he has not had a stand named after him at the home of English football. Whether he will be back with City remain a matter of conjecture.

Uncertainty has swirled around Guardiola's future all season and, with just one year left on his contract, the 55-year-old is yet to give an indication if he plans to stay or go at the end of this term.

If it is about to be the end of an era, Semenyo ensured Guardiola will leave with at least one more golden memory.

For Chelsea, the loss was the latest blow in another turbulent campaign.

Without a win in their last seven league games, they are languishing in ninth place with virtually no chance of qualifying for next season's Champions League.

Under interim boss Calum McFarlane, they produced a battling but ultimately impotent display that underlined why frustrated fans protested against owners BlueCo before kick-off and chanted "we want our Chelsea back".

Result: Chelsea: 0 lt to Manchester City: 1 (Semenyo 72nd).

Villa secure CL qualification

Aston Villa secured Champions League football with a 4-2 win over Liverpool on Friday that leaves the Reds still at risk of missing out on Europe's elite competition next season, reports AFP from Birmingham.

Ollie Watkins struck twice as Villa boss Unai Emery was rewarded for naming a strong side just days before the Europa League final.

"Champions League, this is something amazing," said Emery. "To compete in both competitions and being consistent is not easy. We had a fantastic season in the Premier League and I am so proud."

Liverpool slip to fifth and remain just four points ahead of Bournemouth, who have two games remaining.

McNealy, Smalley share lead

McIlroy stays in contention with a bogey-free round

NEWTOWN SQUARE (USA), AFP

Americans Maverick McNealy and Alex Smalley shared the lead after Friday's chaotic second round of the PGA Championship as cold, windy conditions contributed to carnage at Aronimink.

Six others were only one adrift after 36 holes with seven more, including top-ranked defending champion Scottie Scheffler, just two strokes off the lead entering the weekend.

McNealy, never in the top 25 after 36 holes in 14 prior major starts, fired a three-under par 67 to match Smalley on four-under 136 at the midway mark.

McNealy, a back-nine starter whose best major finish was 18th at last month's Masters, holed out a 54-foot bunker shot for eagle at the par-five 16th, then made birdie putts from 12 and 18 feet on the first two holes.

With a two-day total of four-under, Maverick McNealy and his US compatriot Alex Smalley took a one-shot lead at the PGA Championship in Newtown, Pennsylvania on Friday. AFP

The world No. 33 squandered the solo lead, however, with three-putt bogeys at the sixth and par-three eighth holes.

Sharing third on 137 were Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, the 2021 Masters champion, plus Americans Chris Gotterup and Max Greyserman, South African Aldrich Potgieter, Australian Min Woo Lee and German Stephan Jaeger, who made 18 pars.

A bogey-bogey finish doomed 21-year-old Potgieter's bid to become the youngest 36-hole major leader since Tiger Woods at the 1997 Masters.

Gotterup closed with three birdies to shoot 65.

Joining Scheffler in ninth on 138 were fellow Americans Cameron Young, Justin Thomas and Harris English plus Spain's David Puig, Sweden's Ludvig Aberg and South Korean Kim Si-woo.

Scheffler tumbled from a share of the lead with three bogeys in his first four holes but closed with a birdie at nine to shoot 71.

The four-time major winner missed seven fairways after hitting 13 of 14 on Thursday but complained most about hole positions.

McIlroy in hunt

Six-time major winner Rory McIlroy, the reigning Masters champion, fired a bogey-free three-under par 67 to stand on 141 with Jordan Spieth, Brooks Koepka and Xander Schauffele among others.

"Some of these hole locations have been brutal," McIlroy said. "It's a really bunched leaderboard because guys are finding it tough to make putts."

Sanjana adds to India's tally

NEW DELHI, PTI: Sanjana added a fourth medal to India's tally at the Asian Weightlifting Championships, clinching bronze in the women's 77kg category here on Saturday.

Sanjana registered a total lift of 220kg (96kg in snatch and 124kg in clean and jerk) to finish third.

China's Guifang Liao won the gold medal with a combined effort of 265kg (118kg+147kg) while North Korea's Kyong Ryong Kim claimed silver with a total of 260kg (115kg+145kg).

In the women's 86kg category, Vanshita Verma finished fourth.

Avani lone Indian to make the cut at German Masters

HAMBURG, PTI: Avani Prashanth (**in pic**) emerged as the lone Indian to make the cut at the Amundi German Masters after producing an impressive four-under 69 in the second round to climb to 1-over par overall.

Avani, playing in only her second season as a professional on the Ladies European Tour, carded the joint second-lowest round to climb to tied-47th and safely make the cut, which fell at 2-over par.

The two other Indians in the field, Pranavi Urs and Vani Kapoor, failed to make the weekend after missing the cut. Pranavi returned a second-round card of 1-over par to finish at 4-over overall in tied-72nd place, while Vani retired after the opening round.

Aditi misses cut

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok missed the cut at the Kroger Queen City Championship after carding a second round of 1-over 71.

Put alongside her round of 2-over on the first day, her total score was 3-over par after the second round while the cut was set at 2-over par.

Ahlawat falters

India's Veer Ahlawat and Saptak Talwar made an early exit as the duo missed the cut at the Challenge de Catalunya in Spain.

Ahlawat carded a bogey-free second round of 4-under 69 following a first round even par 71 but still missed out.

Talwar, who shot 86 on day one, carded 1-under 71 but it did not help me make the cut.

IN BRIEF

Pant fined Rs 12 lakh

Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant has been fined Rs 12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their IPL match against Chennai Super Kings, reports PTI from Lucknow.

"As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Rishabh Pant was fined INR 12 lakhs," an IPL media release stated.

Kickstart FC rally to draw

Kickstart FC recovered to a 2-2 draw against Sreebhumi FC after going two goals down in the Indian Women's League in Kolkata, reports DHNS.

Mariyammal Balamurugan scored the equaliser in the 71st minute after Nigerian striker Emem Essien pegged one back in the 33rd minute for Kickstart, who missed out on the chance to close the gap with second-place Sethu FC.

Result: Sreebhumi: 2 (Ngangom Bala Devi 3rd, Veronica Appiah 31st) drew with Kickstart: 2 (Emem Essien 33rd, Mariyammal Balamurugan 71st).

ON TV

CRICKET

IPL: Punjab Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru **(3:30 pm)**, Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar & Star Sports 1**.

BADMINTON

Thailand Open: Finals **(10:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar, Star Sport Select 2.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Manchester United vs Nottingham Forest **(5 pm)**, Brentford vs Crystal Palace, Leeds United vs Brighton & Hove Albion, Everton vs Sunderland, Wolverhampton Wanderers vs Fulham **(all 7:30 pm)**, Newcastle United vs West Ham United **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

ISL: SC Delhi vs Inter Kashi **(5 pm)**, Mohun Bagan vs East Bengal **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, FanCode.**

IFL: Dempo Sports Club vs Diamond Harbour FC **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

RASHTRIYA MILITARY SCHOOL, BELAGAVI-590009
(Govt of India, Ministry of Defence)

1. Principal, Rashtriya Military School, Belagavi invites applications for the following Sports Coaches.

Sl. No.	Coach	Gender	No.of Coaches required	Educational Qualification	Salary
1.1	Boxing	Male	01	BPEd/CPEd Participated in State/ National level games	Negotiable
1.2	Basketball	Male	01		
1.3	Football	Male	01		
1.4	Swimming	Female	01		

2. Interested candidates are requested to apply on or before 10 June 2026 along with resume/biodata with mobile number and photocopies of necessary documents.
3. Short listed candidates will be called for Interview subsequently.

NOTE: The decision of the School authorities will be final & binding in all respect.

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL

KARNATAKA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.,
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560038. Ph No.: 080-25196124 | e-mail: info@kuidfc.com, Website:www.kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/ITS/TEND/2026-27/01 Date: 16.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

KUIDFC invites tenders under Integrated Township project for the below mentioned Consultancy Services from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit Rs in lakhs
1	Appointment of Consultancy Services for Development of Integrated Township project at K.G.F	10.00

Tender Publish Date: 18.05.2026. Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **27.05.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **17.06.2026 Time: 5.30 PM.** Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **19.06.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **As per e-portal.** Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
KUIDFC-Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/JA/701/2026-27

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105. Tel : 08472-220817,
Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/SGP NGR/2026-27/ 169 Date : 16-05-2026

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER :-

1) Detail of Work: Providing & laying of 406mm dia x 5.6mm thick MS Raw water rising main from Existing Jackwell at Desnur Road to Existing WTP at Adhoni Road in Siruguppa City under AMRUT Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase – 4. **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2026-27/ WS / WORK_INDENT507)**, 2) Amount of Estimate : **Rs. 259.57 Lakhs (Excluding GST)** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Rs.3,89,000/-, 5) Period of Completion: 06 (Six) Months, 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **20-05-2026 after 13:00 Hours,** 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **04-06-2026 at 11:30 Hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **17-06-2026 Up to 17:30 Hours,** 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **19-06-2026 After 11:00 Hours,** 10) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11) Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/130/KSMC&A/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ

ಕ್ರಸಂ:ಪೂರೈಕೆ/ಮಾ.ಸಂ.ಗು/ವಹಿ/01/2026–2027 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–05–2026

ಮರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ:– 2026–2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಲು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:– 1. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಕಡತ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 79/ ದಿನಾಂಕ 14.05.2026.

2. Tender Reff. Number DHFWS/2026-27/SE2130/ CALL-2.

ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಶಹರದ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಕೆ.ಎಮ್.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಆರ್. ತಾಯಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಅತೀ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದಗಳ ಖಾಲಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶವಿರುವ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ 1 ರನ್ವಯ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.05.2026** ರಂದು ಒರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 70.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು** ಎಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 1.40.000–00 (2.%)** ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.05.2026 at 17.00 pm** ಆಗಿದ್ದು ಇಚ್ಛೈಯುಳ್ಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾ/185/2026–27/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

Government of Karnataka
District Officer's Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Shivamogga
D. Devaraj Arasu Bhavan, Balaraj Arasu Road, K.E.B Circle,
E-mail : **dobemshimoga@gmail.com** Ph :(08182) 222129.

ನಂ.ಜಿಹಿಂವಕ/ಎ–6/ಮಾ.ಸೇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿ.ಆರ್–29/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Regarding recruitment of human resources on outsourcing basis for the vacant posts of various cadres of Group D in pre-matric/post- matric hostels, and residential schools/colleges of Karnataka Residential Education Institutions and non-teaching posts such as First Division Assistant, Second Division Assistant, Staff Nurse, Cook, Kitchen Assistant, Night Watchman, Cleaning Staff and D Group Assistants coming under the jurisdiction of the Department run by Backward Classes Welfare Department and Data Entry Operators (Grade 2) for the Office of Backward Classes Welfare Officer in Taluks of Shivamogga District for the year 2026-27.

Calender of Events : **1)** Tender publishing No. and date: ಸಂ/ಹಿಂವಕಇ/ಎ–6/ಮಾಸೇಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–29/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: **15.05.2026.**

2) Amount put to tender : **Rs. 1233.45 Lakhs. 3)** EMD amount : **Rs.12.33 lakhs. 4)** Last date for submission of tender through e-portal.: **16.06.2026 before 4.00PM. 5)** Date, time and place of pre-bid meeting : **25.05.2026 at 11.00 AM. 6)** Date and time of opening of technical bid through e-portal **:18.06.2026 at 11.00 AM. (Date and time subject to the changes). 7)** Date and time of verification of technical bid through e-portal : **Will be intimated later. 8)** Date and time of verification of financial bid through e-portal : **Will be intimated later. 9)** For more details, contact details of officer and phone no. **Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or** District Officer, D.Devaraj urs Bhavan, Balaraj urs Road, KEB Circle Shivamogga. **e-mail- dobcmshimoga@gmail.com Ph : (08182) 222129.**

Sd/-
District Officer, B.C.W.Department Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No.73.05/ Zenkar/2026-27

CITY CORPORATION VIJAYAPUR

No:CCV/PWD/EE/DMA/TND/E-proc/2026-27 Dated:14.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Public Procurment Portal Through Only

Various Grants of Vijayapura City Corporation Tender Notification. Details are Below.

Tender	No of Works	Amount in Lakhs		Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders	Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid	Date and Time for Opening of Finanical Bid
		Min	Max				
Work Tender	15	3.10	882.00	Evening 5:00 PM	Evening 4:00 PM	Evening 4:30 PM	As per kpp portal
Service Tender	07	93.00	119.50	01.06.2026	02.06.2026	03.06.2026	
Rate for Quotation Tender	01	-	-				

City Corporation Vijayapur invites tenders from eligible tenders registered Tenders are called in standard tender document through KPP Portal. For further details visit online web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. and Tender Corrigendum and Addendum issued in KPP Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
City Corporation, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/98/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ/ತಾಸ–1/2026–27/ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.05.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) KW-4 (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು: ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **(1)** ಸುರಪುರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ದೇವರಗೋನಾಲ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಗೋಗಿ ಕೂಡು ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26145 **(2)** ಹುಣಸಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮುದ್ದೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ದಾಸಿಮಯ್ಯ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಆಶ್ರಯ ಕಾಲೋನಿ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26191 **(3)** ಹುಣಸಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾರನಾಳ ತಾಂಡ ದಿಂದ ದಿಬ್ಬಿ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ ವರಗೆ ಬಿ.ಟಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26135 4) ಹುಣಸಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾರಲಭಾವಿ ಯಿಂದ ಮಾಳನೂರು ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿ.ಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26183 2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:2024–25 ಹಾಗೂ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ 123.00 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 130.00 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 16.05.2026 ರಿಂದ 25.05.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 25.05.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್:** 27.05.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್:** 03.06.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/77/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ&ಎ/2026–27

VOCAL ABOUT LOCAL According to JioStar, regional language watch-time has seen an uptick of 42% during the ongoing IPL

Kannada commentary finds its own voice

MADHU JAWAL
BENGALURU, DHNS

It was 11 years ago, in 2015, that Star Sports launched its first regional language commentary service in Hindi with a lot of hope and an equal amount of apprehension. Until then, English was the de facto lingua franca of cricket commentary on television, and to get the audience to switch from their "preferred" language was going to be a big ask. To their surprise, however, they were overwhelmed by the response. The success encouraged them to expand their network to more native tongues, and given India's diversity in languages, sky was the limit.

Gradually, they started commentary feed in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam and found the response similarly reassuring. After the merger of Star Sports and Jio, who had won digital rights for IPL broadcast for the 2023-2027 cycle, the network serves commentary in over a dozen Indian languages, attracting the hitherto untapped audience. Regional language commentary, in a way, has transformed the way Indian audiences experience cricket.

According to JioStar, the regional language watch-time has seen an uptick of 42% (as per data collected from 43 matches on linear TV and 49 on digital) this Indian Premier League over the the last edition with digital platforms accelarating the growth.

"It's not just about the language," Siddharth Sharma, head of content, sports, at JioStar tells DhoS. "No two languages or no two cultures are similar to each other. I think that's the biggest mistake one will commit if you look at the markets through the same prism and expect to really duplicate what worked in one is going to work on the other.

"Whenever we start a new language, it starts with understanding the region, the people, the preferences and what is going to endear the people towards the style of delivery and connection that we want to establish with them. We create a textbook, a playbook which is infused with everything that we can know and learn."

Former India player and the earliest to take to Kannada commentary Vijay Bharadwaj feels it's about storytelling, it's about making it an enjoyable experience without complicating the narration with too much technicality.

"Helping audiences understand the language of cricket itself was a difficult task," he begins. "Many people across Bengaluru and villages in Karnataka could not fully understand English commentary, and they did not want to watch Hindi commentary either. Naturally, they were looking for a channel where they could understand both the game of cricket and the language being spoken.

"The finer details of the game are discussed in an informal tone. It is "aadu bhashe" (conversational Kannada). That has been the key," offers Bharadwaj who admits he has gained more visibility by being a commentator than when he played for India.

"People recognise me on the streets, mob me, take selfies and seek my autograph. I feel like a rockstar," he laughs.

From conceptualisation of an idea to final output, attention to details is uncompromisable.

"A great deal of effort goes on behind the scenes from producers as well as commentators," says Bharadwaj. "Once the basics were established, the focus shifted to taking the broadcast to the next level. The entire idea was that once viewers tuned into the Kannada channel, they should not feel the need to switch back to English or Hindi commentary."

A major effort has also gone into representing the diversity within Karnataka itself. Producers consciously incorporate different dialects and speaking styles from across the state. A South Bengaluru conversational tone may coexist with North Karnataka's high-energy expressions or Mysuru's softer linguistic flavour.

"We carefully look at ways as to how we can probably look beyond the urban Bangalore style also and look at the various energies that come from other regions," Sharma notes. "There's a South Bangalore conversational tone. There's a North Karnataka mass energy. Depending on the panel combinations and match and mood, whoever is present is part of the panel. So, we try to have this diversity within the region that we can bring together to tell these stories that are infused with strong Karnataka subculture references including, for example, Bangalore internet culture, meme, humour, cafe cricket discussions, local phrases, fan behavior patterns around the team that we support so much."

Royal Challengers Bengaluru fandom, Sharma says, also strongly defines the tone of the Kannada feed.

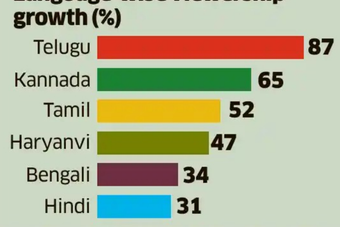
"It's emotional. It's community-driven during the RCB matches, high-pressure games that RCB tends to play. And one of the major strengths of this season over the years that we have done is try to really bring a mix of generational voices on the panel which includes, you know, players who have played over the years, who have seen India cricket, who have seen IPL cricket and bring them alongside the current batch of players also.

"This offers a unique mix of a view of how cricket has been and our view of how cricket has now changed and infusing the modern T20 culture and digital audiences sensibilities into it. So, instead of conventional commentary structure, each commentator then developed a distinct identity and we have tried to build an audience recall through these.

"You know, for example, Jaani Srinivas has got this humour element. So, we have created segments like Humour Jaani where humour and meme-friendly moments are called. I believe benki in Kannada is fire. So, Benki Akhil as high-intensity match reaction that comes from Akhil. Angry Vijay... Emotional reaction and mass energy that comes from Vijay Bharadwaj. You know, we have tried to create characters out of some of these voices and talent who are loved by the audiences. Vinay Kumar, Tactical Vinay, talks about game awareness and strategy. When you give personalities, then you are able to do and establish that connect far more deeply. This avoids a lot of the tonal fatigue that comes in a tournament which can be of long durations like the IPL."

Today, Kannada commentary is no longer viewed as an alternative to English coverage. It has evolved into a distinct viewing experience with its own style, identity and loyal fan base. For broadcasters, the future lies in further deepening these regional connections.

IPL 2025 vs 2024 Language-wise viewership growth (%)



TTK (Tamil, Telugu, Kannada) markets are core digital growth engines

- **South India** contributed disproportionately to streaming growth
- Users spent longer on matches in **native-language** streams
- Regional audio feeds improved retention time
- TTK audiences showed stronger second-screen behaviour **(social + streaming simultaneously)**

RCB's IPL 2025 title amplified Karnataka consumption

- In the leading chart, RCB matches drew massive audiences, with their highest-viewed game clocking an astounding number of **57.8 crore** views on June 3, RCB vs PBKS final.
- This is followed by the clash between Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and RCB, which garnered **41.4 crore** views. Followed by an intense rivalry between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and RCB that also captivated fans, with their matches drawing **37.3 crore** and **34 crore** views, respectively.

Sources: BARC, FKCCI, JioStar

Star Glory wins BTC Charitable Trust Trophy

BENGALURU RESULTS

Satesh Narredu-trained Star Glory, ridden by Yash Narredu, won the BTC Charitable Trust Trophy, the main event of the races here on Saturday.

1. The Quasar Plate (Div II) --1400M: Acantha (Chethan Neelakanta and Y S Harsha) P Trevor 1, Art Of Romance (P Kiran Rai) 2, Star Comet (Rayan Ahmed) 3, Real Happiness (Vikrant) 4. WB: 1/2, 2 1/2, 1/2. T:1:27.28. Tote: Rs 20w, 12, 12, 19p; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 42; Fc:Rs 79; Q: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 320 & 192; Exp: Rs 1768 & 1118. TB: Purshottam K; Fav: Art Of Romance.

2. The Ich Dien Plate -- 1400M: Supreme Success (K N Ramaraju) Suraj Narredu 1, Royal Jewel (Akshay Kumar) 2, Vafadar (Aditya Waydande) 3, Magna Carta (Vinod Shinde) 4. WB: 2 1/4, 3/4, 3. T: 1:27.45. Tote: Rs 23;(w); 11, 11, 14 (p); Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 35; Fc: Rs 38; Q: Rs 19; Tri:Rs 103 & 60; Exp: Rs 304 & 135. TB: S Narredu; Fav: Royal Jewel.

3. The Quasar Plate (Div I) -- 1400M: Baashha (Santhosh P) S Sachin 1, Exceed (J Chinoy) 2, Noble Cause (Alex Rozario) 3, Feeling Good (Suhas) 4. WB: 13/4, 3 1/4, 3. T: 1:26.13. Tote: Rs 34(w); 16, 10, 32 (p); Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 54; Fc: Rs 107; Q: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 685 & 433; Exp: Rs 1782 & 520. TB: Joseph Awale; Fav:Exceed.

4. The BTC Charitable Trust Trophy -- 1400M: Star Glory (Daulat Chhabria and S Narredu) Yash Narredu 1, Global Influence 2, Don Carlos (Akshay Kumar) 3, Ricardo (Aleemuddin) 4. WB: 1 3/4, Snk, 8. T: 1:25.37. Tote: Rs 79 (w); 24, 10(p); Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 23; Fc: Rs 148; Q: Rs 75; Tri: Rs 357 & 267; Exp: Rs 338 & 130. TB: S Narredu; Fav: Global Influence.

5. The Star Contender Plate -- 1200M: Shining Ways (Daulat Chhabria, Teja Gollapudi, Dr Prabhakar Chowdary and Ashok Ranpise) Suraj Narredu 1, Regal Beauty (Akshay Kumar) 2, Burevestnik (Shreyas Singh) 3, Personal Legend (A Ramu) 4. WB: 1, 2, 1. T: 1:13.44. Tote: Rs 41 (w); 13,;18, 11 (p); Shp: Rs 51; Thp: Rs 40; Fc: Rs 281; Q: Rs 133; Tri: Rs 847 & 355; Exp: Rs 9665 & 6903. TB: S Narredu; Fav: Burevestnik

6. The Manitou Plate -- 1200M: Solara (DT Racing Breeding Pvt Ltd Mukul Sonawala, Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd and SR Sanas) Akshay Kumar 1, Darrington (N Arind Kumar) 2, Hushed (Rafique S K) 3, Khazana (P Trevor) 4. WB: 2 1/2, Snk, 2 3/4. T: 1:13.38. Tote: Rs 17 (w); 10, 14, 76 (p); Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 151; Fc: Rs 36; Q: Rs 25; Tri: Rs 911 & 708 ; Exp: Rs 1866 & 417. TB: SS Attaollahi; Fav: Solara.

Jackpot: Rs 17,682 & 4021. **Mini jackpot:** Rs 9090. **I treble:** Rs 550. **II treble:** Rs 471.

TENNIS KARNATAKA OPEN

Cool Keegan conquers

Top-seeded American downs Australian Sekulic 6-2, 7-5 for title

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Runner-up Philip Sekulic (left) of Australia and winner Keegan Smith of the USA pose after the Karnataka Open final at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

If the power and bounce coming off of Keegan Smith's racquet were too much to handle for Philip Sekulic, it was evident that the former's unflappable presence intimidated the latter's hyper self. The opponents, battling their own kind of nerves, were vying to get the better of the other at the final of the Karnataka Open ATP 50 Challenger here on Saturday.

During the match that lasted one hour and 20 minutes, fourth-seeded Sekulic was often found frantically searching for a lifeline before pulling out every shot in his bag and hurling it on the opposite side of the court. That sort of panic from the Australian, in the end, failed to rescue him as the top-seeded Smith's well-rounded game and alert mind gave him a 6-2, 7-5 victory to lift the winners' trophy at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

Though it was Australian Sekulic who broke the American Smith as early as the third game of the first set, that slender advantage was snatched back in the very next game for Smith to level the proceedings 2-2.

Sekulic, who was struggling with his first serve and inconsistent groundstrokes, once again became prey when Smith broke the sixth game to go ahead 4-2. The lead saw the 6-foot-7-inch American's confidence swell to win the opener 6-2.

In the beginning of the second set too, the 22-year-old Sekulic appeared desperate to find his A game. Just when it looked like the relaxed Smith —whose execution was simple and effective — was cruising, Sekulic got his act together to once again get the first break to go up 4-3.

Fired up after the midway blip, Smith raised the bar to become his attacking best to break back in the eighth to level 4-4. Sekulic's late surge helped him hold two more games. But the 27-year-old Smith, eager not to take the match to the decider, stepped up one last time in the 12th game to break Sekulic and win the set and match.

Niki-Myneni lift title

Joy for the hosts came in the form of Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha and Saketh Myneni, who defeated Petr Bar Biryukov of Russia and Grigoriy Lomakin of Kazakhstan to lift the doubles' title.

The Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh pair scored a straight-set 6-2, 6-3 win. It was an extra delight for Poonacha as it was his first title while playing in Bengaluru.

Results: Finals (prefix denotes seedings): Singles: 1-Keegan Smith (USA) bt 4-Philip Sekulic (Aus) 6-2, 7-5.
Doubles: Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha/ Saketh Myneni (Ind) bt Petr Bar Biryukov/ Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) 6-2, 6-3.

Sat-Chi in final after epic battle

Indian pair beats Malaysia's Fei-Nur in a 3-game affair

BANGKOK, PTI

A gritty Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty showed nerves of steel as they stormed into the men's doubles final with a riveting three-game win over Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin at the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament here on Saturday.

World No. 4 Satwik and Chirag, who won the title in 2019 and 2024, displayed remarkable composure under pressure to outclass the world No. 9 Malaysian pair 19-21, 22-20, 21-16 in a gruelling semifinal that lasted 82 minutes.

It will be their third final appearance at the USD 500,000 tournament and first of the season.

The Indian pair will have to recover from the 82-minute match when they face either Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin or China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in the summit clash.

The star Indian pair had recently made headlines for their comments highlighting the lack of mainstream visibility and public appreciation for badminton in India despite the country's Thomas Cup bronze-winning campaign in Denmark.

Satwik and Chirag, however, shut out the outside noise and stayed focused on the task at hand to register their eighth win over the Malaysian combination.

India's Chirag Shetty (right) and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy during their three-game semifinal win at the Thailand Open in Bangkok on Saturday. AFP

R Praggnanandhaa

Praggnanandhaa outwits Sindarov

BUCHAREST (ROMANIA), PTI: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa reserved his best against the in-form World championship challenger Javokhir Sindarov, outwitting him in the second round of the Super Chess Classics here on Friday.

Praggnanandhaa was at his very best with black pieces in what appeared to be a drawn middle game with repetition of moves. But the Indian took his chances.

Sindarov tried to reinvent the wheel as he went for a known variation of the Italian opening that had been long discarded in elite chess circles. However, Sindarov could only manage to get a dynamic balance with a pawn-less middle game and his rival was quite up to the mark in defence.

The Uzbek thought he had some chances against the black king when he sacrificed a piece and even though the computers suggested that a draw was on the cards. But Praggnanandhaa took his chances to complicate matters.

Subsequently, Sindarov failed to find the adequate counter play and decided to call it a day after 42 moves when Praggnanandhaa seemed to have consolidated his position with an extra piece.

Fabiano Caruana of the United States played out a draw with Dutchman Anish Giri out of a closed Ruy Lopez opening.

Playing white, Caruana got nothing out of the opening and subsequent exchanges led to an opposite coloured Bishops endgame wherein the draw was the only choice for both players.

Results: Round 2: Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 0.5) lt to R Praggnanandhaa (1.5); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 0.5) lt to Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1.5); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 1) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 1); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 1.5) bt Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou); Wesley So (USA, 1) drew with Jorden Van Foreest (Ned, 1).

Iron Mirage for main event

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

P Prasanna Kumar-trained Iron Mirage, to be ridden by P Trevor, is fancied to win the War Hammer Million, to be run over a distance of 1400 meters at the races on Sunday. The first race starts at 3 pm.

1. The Newmarket Plate - 1200M: Breeze Bluster 1, Windcleaver 2, Miracle Beauty 3.

2. The Sweet Memories Plate - 1400M: Tiger Bay 1, Dream Walkin 2, Hidden Dreams 3.

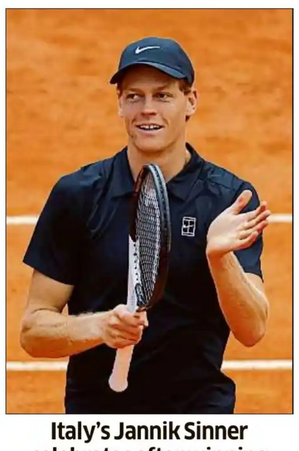
3. The Alhole Plate - 1200M: Regal Reality 1, Stellantis 2, Monterio 3.

4. The War Hammer Million - 1400M: Iron Mirage 1, Moonveil 2, Deep Respect 3.

5. The Track Lighting Plate - 1400M: Starzella 1, Legacy Field 2, Cantarina 3.

6. The Racing Patrons Plate - 1400M: Elysium 1, Hazel 2, Silicon Star 3.

Day's Best: Regal Reality. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Mini Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6. **1st treble:** 1, 2, 3. **2nd treble:** 4, 5, 6.



Italy's Jannik Sinner celebrates after winning his semifinal match against Russia's Daniil Medvedev at the Italian Open. REUTERS

Sinner downs Medvedev to set up Ruud clash

ROME, AFP

Jannik Sinner will face Casper Ruud in the men's final of the Italian Open after finishing off Daniil Medvedev in Saturday's closing chapter of an enthralling last-four clash, which was paused overnight due to rain in Rome.

The world No. 1 could claim a record-extending sixth Masters 1000 title on Sunday thanks to a 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 win which had almost everything over the course of its two-and-a-half hours of the match.

Sinner had to have treatment on his right thigh and even vomited during Friday night's leg of the semi-final as Medvedev gave the Italian by far his toughest test of the tournament.

But he looked in much better spirits before the restart as he joked and played football with his coaching team during his warm-up in the bowels of the centre court arena, just as warm spring sunshine started to shine after a few days of volatile weather.

"It was a different challenge, a tough challenge to be honest," said Sinner.

"During the night usually I never struggle to sleep, but this night was not easy because when you're on the third set, you know I'm nearly nearly done but you still have to show up again, and you never know what's happening because It's basically a new start of a match. There are nerves."

The match was scheduled to restart at 3 pm local time but was again delayed by an hour both due to more rain and the men's doubles semi-final, won by Sinner's compatriots Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori.

Ruud revenge?

Ruud gets a chance for revenge for a brutal hammering against Sinner here last year after dismantling Luciano Darderi 6-1, 6-1 on Saturday, another match interrupted by heavy rain.

The Norwegian has not won a single set in any of his four matches with Sinner and was destroyed 6-0, 6-1 in the 2025 last eight in one of the most one-sided matches ever seen at the Foro Italico.

"I think he's playing much, much better tennis right now, so its going to be very tough," said Sinner.

"Every match every week, even if you play with the same player week after week. It's completely different, so I'm just happy to stand again here in the final."

Later Coco Gauff will attempt to claim her first Rome title in the women's final against Elina Svitolina.

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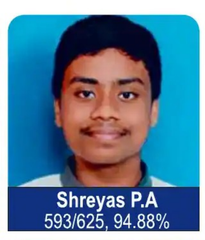
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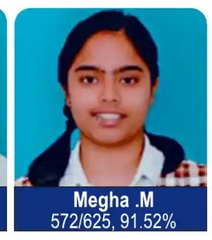
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The politics and economics of victimhood

Roger Marshall
is a computer scientist, a newly minted Luddite and a cynic

Victimhood can be defined as a psychological mindset where individuals, groups or organisations consistently view themselves as victims of others' actions and blame others for their misfortunes, constantly seek sympathy and support for their viewpoints, and rarely accept any responsibility for harm inflicted by them. Many groups practise organised victimhood across the world – the United States, Israel, Donald Trump, Benjamin Netanyahu, Vladimir Putin, MAGA, the South African whites, Meta, Microsoft, Google, etc. The list is endless. Social scientists who first came up with the concept of victimhood have addressed the issue from diverse perspectives, but the psychological one has prevailed. Missing from the discussion are the political and economic forces that better explain why the world is suffering a surfeit of victimhood.

Given his actions and pronouncements as president, Trump should consider writing a book titled *The Art of Victimhood*. His Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement is a stellar example of the victimhood mindset. When Trump blamed immigrants for taking away jobs from white Americans, never mind that the locals are either unwilling to work, as in the agricultural sector, or unqualified, since they do not have the education or the necessary technical skills, as in the software sector, he was catering to a disgruntled group of people unwilling to shoulder responsibility for their shortcomings but all too ready to blame immigrants, mostly non-whites from the Global South.

When Trump imposed punitive tariffs on over a hundred nations across the globe, the rationale he provided was that these nations were taking advantage of America in matters pertaining to trade. America as a victim was the overwhelming message conveyed to the world. The discussion conveniently omitted the egregious exploitation of workers and natural resources in these nations by the US.

That the victimhood mindset is also widely prevalent in Big Tech companies such as Google, Meta, and Microsoft can be readily seen from how the companies responded when the European Union (EU) nations cracked down on their monopolistic behaviour and invasions of privacy by levying huge fines. Pleading victimhood, they asked the US government to intervene and resolve the matter. More recently, when the United Kingdom was contemplating imposing a digital services tax on the likes of Amazon, Trump threatened to impose tariffs on the country. In contributing millions of dollars to Trump's election campaigns, Big Tech did expect a *quid pro quo* in due course. He who pays the piper calls the tune, even if it is only discordant notes of a trumpet. In politics, as in life, nothing is free.

Likewise, some 6,000 miles away, another high-tech nation-state, namely Israel, has been captured by the victimhood mindset. Notwithstanding the Holocaust which occurred almost ninety years ago when Israel wasn't even in existence, the victimhood mindset that has developed in its citizenry without any of them experiencing severe trauma or victimisation is astounding, a fact that can only be explained by constant reminders to the people that the Holocaust did happen and that antisemitism and anti-Zionism have no place in society, irrespective of whatever violence that has been visited upon Palestinians by Israeli soldiers and settlers alike. Moreover, any legitimate criticism of Israel is automatically construed as antisemitic even though the criticism may have no religious overtones whatsoever. Any policy centred on 'an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth' can hardly be conducive to changing the victimhood mindset.

If you were to analyse the root causes of all internecine conflicts, they can all be traced back to the victimhood mindset. Government programmes to rectify past injustices directed at specific minority groups result in reverse discrimination lawsuits by majoritarian groups since the latter feel that they have been victimised. It is immaterial as to on what basis groups are defined or formed – religion, caste, colour, disability, ethnicity, gender, tribe, linguistic, etc.

A handful of examples from across the globe should suffice to bring home the point that the victimhood mindset is universal. In the 1950s and 60s, Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu blamed 'Aryan' Brahmins for suppressing them in employment, education, and social progress. These parties won the state elections in 1967 and have been winning elections until their loss earlier this month. Likewise, in Sri Lanka, the majoritarian Sinhalese shut out the Tamils from civil society. Similar events have transpired in Malaysia and Myanmar. The balkanisation of the former Yugoslavia into several smaller ethnically defined nation-states has also come about because of the victimhood mindset among the populace.

One man's meat is another man's poison. Vegetarians and vegans should take note.

SARKARI SECRETS

Transparency runs into custom error

Earlier this month, the Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) got its first woman Chief Information Commissioner. Now, the state has its full complement of 10-plus-one commissioners to decide disputes under the RTI Act. We also know their names and office locations, but that is nearly all the Commission will tell us about its functioning.

Despite being the primary stakeholders of the transparency regime, we do not know which cases will be taken up for hearing, on which date, and by which information commissioner. At the time of writing, the 'cause list' link on the KIC's website drew a blank when queried about the daily listing of cases for May 2026. The website is also silent about the KIC's roster – which departments and public authorities have been assigned to which commissioner for deciding information-related grievances. We can only infer from the 'contact us' segment of the website that those stationed in Belagavi and Kalaburagi may be hearing cases from those parts of the state.

Admirably, Karnataka was the first state in the country to establish and populate its Information Commission in 2005, even before the Central Information Commission (CIC) was set up. Its primary job is to entertain citizens' grievances about the replies of public authorities to their requests for information or even the lack of response. It probes the appeals and complaints of RTI applicants unhappy with the quantity, quality, or correctness of the information supplied by public information officers (PIOs).

Between 2017-18 and 2021-22, KIC disposed of almost 90,000 cases. We do not know what happened later because the Commission has not published its annual reports. What is worse is that the decisions of the information commissioners have become *sarkari* secrets as most of them are no longer uploaded on the Commission's website. Strangely, 30 cases listed for the new state Chief Information Commissioner, for resolution in the month of May, only display the decision to adjourn every matter without any indication about the next date of hearing. Two commissioners are not even listed in the 'decisions' section.

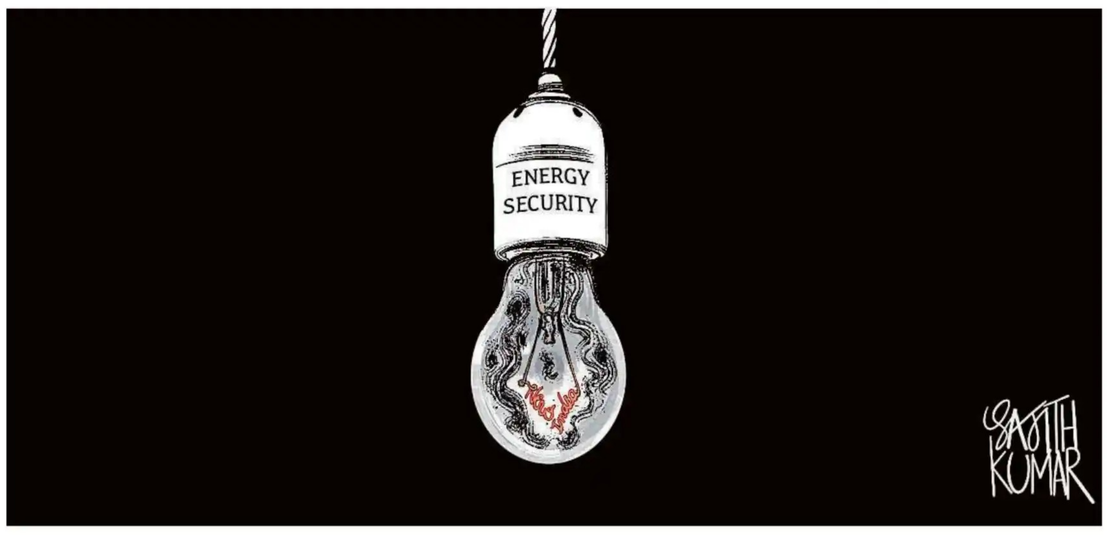
Venkatesh Nayak
wakes up every morning thinking someone somewhere is hiding something

Last month, the information commissioner stationed at Kalaburagi claimed that the KIC had disposed of 40,000 cases in one year and that his contribution was resolving almost 1,187 cases within 90 days. A commendable achievement indeed, as several were apparently pending for 5-6 years. At the time of writing, clicking on this commissioner's 'date-wise orders' for May displayed "404 custom error" messages. If the Commission's decisions are not publicly accessible, where will appellants and public authorities find precedents to support their contentions during hearings? Cases decided over the last two decades by previous information commissioners have been removed from the website, for reasons best known to the KIC.

Until 2021-22, Karnataka ranked just behind the Union government and Maharashtra in the volume of RTI applications. The departments of rural development, revenue, and urban development, in that order, reported handling more than 60% of the 3.79 lakh RTI applications that year – indicating the popularity of the law in both rural and urban areas. Interestingly, the departments of education, social welfare, food and civil supplies, and women and child welfare, which attract a large number of information requests in other states, did not make it to the top-10 list in Karnataka. In the absence of subsequent annual reports, we know nothing about recent trends.

More than 10% of the RTI applications filed with Karnataka's top three departments escalated to the first appeals stage in 2021-22. 50% of these matters decided by the appellate authorities ended up at the KIC. This indicates a very high level of dissatisfaction with the performance of those public authorities. We do not know the current pendency status because the KIC's website does not display this data, unlike the CIC, which regularly updates pendency figures (36,307 pending cases as of today). The KIC's mandatory disclosure of basic information, required under Section 4(1)(b) of the Act, is currently stuck in 2022-23, as evidenced by its budgetary data, even though the document is marked '2025-26'.

The KIC, like its counterparts elsewhere in the country, is mandated to steer public authorities away from pointless opacity towards purposive transparency that strengthens our democracy. The Commission must practise what it preaches if it intends to remain relevant to the citizenry. The state Chief Information Commissioner must lead from the front.



THE Z FACTOR

The American dream is changing

This year marks exactly ten years since I first set foot on American soil as a young graduate student at Columbia. At the time, among my fellow international students and classmates, I had been a rank outlier for one key reason: I'd had no intention back then of immigrating or settling down in the United States.

And so, while many of my classmates stayed back in the US after graduation to pursue further study and work opportunities, I left the country, travelled the Middle East, and later briefly resettled in India. Today, I'm an outlier for a very different reason: While many of my Indian classmates and friends from Columbia have left the US, I'm back in the country – this time as a proper immigrant based in Washington.

Many people are following not my lead but that of my friends. The enrolment of international students in US universities has fallen by 17% compared to a year ago. The number of people entering the H1-B visa lottery has fallen by more than 20%. Some estimates claim that in 2025, more people migrated out of the US than moved in – the first time that has happened in at least 50 years.

For decades, many people from across the developing world have striven to immigrate to the US to pursue their economic dreams. But truth be told, that logic is weakening.

If you're financially successful, the US is still the place to be: average salaries are much higher than anywhere else in the world; business ideas grow to become multi-billion-dollar enterprises more frequently than elsewhere.

But the entryway to those goals is getting harder. Student and work visas are being denied at higher rates than before. Young college graduates are facing historic levels of unemployment, thanks to AI. Housing is prohibitively expensive. So, why did I choose to return to the US while others left? For one, I serendipitously found a faster path to permanent residence than most of my Indian friends.

Mohamed Zeeshan
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But second, and more importantly, in spending time outside America, I began to slowly appreciate American values. I spent the last few years watching India change in ways which impacted my sense of identity and belonging in the country. I came to America looking to rediscover that belonging.

It turns out that I'm not alone in thinking that way. Yes, America is currently in the throes of an anti-immigrant backlash of historic proportions. But communal peace and social freedoms have deteriorated so badly elsewhere in the world – especially across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East – that many are now fleeing to the US as intellectual and cultural refugees. A relative from Delhi vows never to move back to India because she fears for her safety there as a woman. My wife misses her family but wishes Indian society afforded the same freedoms to ambitious young women as America.

All this means that for a new wave of American immigrants, the primary allure of the American dream is increasingly turning from economic to social and political. This is perhaps part of why many international students and young immigrants become politically activistic: they come to America hoping to express the political dissent that they are not allowed in their home countries. Think of how the Gaza campus protests were primarily led by foreign students, for instance.

This also means that diaspora communities are subtly changing how they assimilate into mainstream American society. In previous generations, immigrants tended to be fiercely protective of their own culture at home but non-expressive outside: they would force-feed their kids Bharatanatyam lessons while keeping their cultural identity low-profile at work. A young man, born in Virginia to Tamil parents, told me that his parents always had Tamil television running at home.

Today, a globalised generation is more comfortable holding multiple cultural identities at the same time. They go to temples and wear *hijabs* in public, but are also content to spend their Sunday evenings at a baseball game with their friends. They binge on American shows and movies but also don't shy away from hosting Bollywood-themed parties at work.

All that they want is the freedom to be themselves, everywhere and at all times, and that's what they're hoping America will give them.

THE BIG LENS

What 2026 signals for 2029

The results of the recently held Assembly elections in four states and a Union Territory have been more or less on expected lines. If the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s sweep in West Bengal and the emergence of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) under C Joseph Vijay as the single-largest party in Tamil Nadu surprised the pundits and the media, they probably missed a fundamental lesson: hard work, eventually, pays in politics. The BJP's West Bengal victory comes after years of groundwork by lakhs of party workers and astute planning by Amit Shah. Voter resentment against the (not so easily) outgoing chief minister, Mamata Banerjee, accelerated this political shift.

Three aspects of the overall results need to be discussed. One is that the BJP has expanded its footprint beyond the Hindi belt. The victory in West Bengal, along with the return to power in Assam, gives the BJP a geography that spans the North-East and states bordering Bangladesh. The three seats in Kerala and one in Tamil Nadu may not be consequential to the big picture, but they are anchors for future growth. Second, the weakening of the Dravidian hold in Tamil Nadu's politics may place the relevance of the north-south divide in question. The third aspect is the continued decline of the Congress party, which has governments in four states but is nowhere near being an alternative to the BJP. The disconnect between the central leadership and the state units is best evident in Kerala.

There have been instances of state assemblies not being constituted long after the election results due to fractured verdicts. But what unfolded in Kerala might probably have no parallel. Even after a decisive victory over the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF), the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) was not able to name the chief minister even in 10 days after the results. V D Satheesan – eventually chosen for the office – will face the fallout of factionalism that was on full display in the CM race.

Seshadri Chari
reads between the lines on big national and international developments from his vantage point in the BJP and the RSS

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After the initial jitters, the TVK-led coalition seems to be consolidating a majority in the Tamil Nadu assembly. The only way the Dravidian parties could have captured power after the results was to come together and forge an alliance. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leadership realised that such a step would not only compromise their hold over a section of the electorate but also throw a lifeline to the sinking All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). As was expected, the AIADMK faced yet another revolt against its leadership and witnessed a vertical split, with the rebel faction joining hands with the TVK. This should be a lesson to the BJP, which allied with the AIADMK at the cost of one of its most popular leaders who opposed the move. The BJP may want to do some serious rethinking and effect a course correction in its organisational structure in the state.

The election results are likely to have far-reaching consequences on the national stage. The Tamil Nadu verdict has signalled the beginning of the dismantling of an entrenched narrative – that the south and the north are different and their divides are unbridgeable. The Dravidian parties, which were an offshoot of this narrative, have lost to a party that transcended the narrative. Though the TVK does not include the Dravidian identity in its name, it is doubtful if the party will veer away from Dravidian moorings, as the new Chief Minister prefers to eulogise the Dravidian icons as much as he projects his Christian faith publicly.

In these circumstances, with a weakened Congress, only the BJP appears positioned to offer a pan-India alternative to parochial identities. But that will require a strong leader and a larger presence at the grassroots.

Another significant takeaway from the results is the total rejection of the Left parties, coming after the centenary year of the movement in India. With the Communists out of power in Kerala, the Congress will have a greater hold on the minority vote. This leaves a sizeable portion of the Hindu votes open to the BJP, which has a significant task in improving its base in the state.

The lessons from 2026 will spur all parties on as they set out for a series of elections over the next three years. But it is the BJP, with higher stakes and a well-oiled election machinery, which appears set for the pole position in the race that will lead up to the 2029 prize.

DHARMA

Beyond karma: Subaltern tales of caste origin

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When the missionaries came to India, they argued that Hindus accept social hierarchy because they believe their birth is the result of past actions. Karma promoted fatalism. This interpretation led many anti-caste reformers to reject karma itself. The Jataka tales describe the many previous births of the Buddha, showing how good deeds over lifetimes led to Buddhahood. Karma is central there. But Navayana Buddhism rejects karma, as it does not align with the doctrine of free will and social justice.

The earliest Vedic texts (after 1000 BC) do not clearly present karma in the later moral sense. The Rig Veda contains the famous Purusha Sukta (a late interpolation), where society is imagined as emerging from a cosmic being. From his mouth came the Brahmin, from his arms the Kshatriya, from his thighs the Vaishya, and from his feet the Shudra. This hymn presents a fourfold *varna* system as part of cosmic order. There is hierarchy here, but no karma. The Dharmashastras (after 200 BC) describe *varna* as birth-based. One is born a Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, or Shudra. Duties and restrictions follow birth. Upanishads argued that one's status is determined by past deeds. Stories from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* gave examples of present suffering emerging from past actions.

But when we move away from Sanskrit texts and listen to stories told in different communities, especially among those labelled lower caste, we hear very different explanations of origin. These are not about karma and rebirth, but about accident, trickery, or misunderstanding.

In one story, Shiva invites everyone to receive blessings in the form of sacred ash. People bring containers to collect it. Those with large pots gather much ash, and their descendants become powerful and wealthy. Fisherfolk bring nets. The ash slips through the holes. Their descendants remain poor. The story does not speak of sin or past life deeds. It speaks of foolishness and chance.

Another tale speaks of brothers cooking meat together. A piece falls on the ground. The elder brother, not wanting to give contaminated food to his siblings, eats it himself or hides it. The younger brothers accuse him of stealing the best portion. They curse him to always eat leftovers. He and his descendants become a community forced to eat what others discard. Here, caste begins with misunderstanding and accusation.

There is also a story of two brothers asked to perform temple rituals. The elder says he is unwell and asks the younger to go in his place. People misunderstand this as a sign that the younger is fitter to be a priest. The younger becomes a Brahmin. The elder becomes his servant. Social hierarchy is born from miscommunication.

Another widely told story speaks of a drowning cow. Two brothers try to rescue it. The elder grabs the tail. The cow dies. Because he touched the dead body, he is considered polluted. From that day, his descendants must live on the edge of the village. Pollution begins not with evil but with an attempt to help.

In another version, a royal elephant dies. The younger prince asks the elder to carry the carcass out, saying he is strong. When the elder steps out with the dead body, the palace doors are shut. He is never allowed back in. He becomes the handler of carcasses. His fall is the result of betrayal.

Alongside these stories are Brahminical theories of mixture. The idea developed that there were originally four *varnas*. Intermarriage between them created many mixed groups. These became *jatis*. Scholars argue that jatis, local communities defined by occupation and kinship, existed first. The four *varna* categories were imposed later as a framework, with Brahmins placing themselves at the top. Within the fourth *varna*, service providers were divided into pure and impure. Those labelled impure were pushed outside the system and called *avarna* or *chandala.*

Some texts connect caste and rebirth. They say those who perform bad deeds are reborn in polluted wombs, as animals or as *chandalas*. This links social status with moral failure. It is a powerful theological justification.

Yet there are also stories of resistance. Some communities narrate how a king ordered them to perform degrading labour. They refused. They were punished, even killed. Their low status is remembered not as fate but as defiance. Their ancestors chose dignity over submission. Folk ballads on Madurai Veeran, Gangamma, and Palnadu contain memories of caste conflicts.

Across these narratives, we see that caste is explained in many ways: as cosmic design, as birth identity, as quality and action, as mixture, as accident, as betrayal, as pollution, and as resistance. The karmic explanation is only one among many. Myths of origin do not simply justify hierarchy. They also reveal memory, protest, and the struggle to make sense of unequal worlds.

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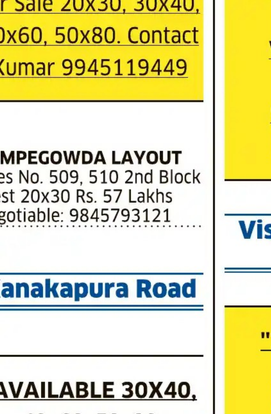

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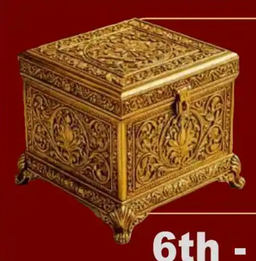

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Change of Name

I, HARISH KUMAR.A residing at SF-1, Homly Homes Apartments, 1st Cross, Hegde Nagar, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to HARSHAVARADHAN KUMAR GARUDA .A vide affidavit dated 16-05-2026 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUNDARA KUPPARAJU** W/o **K.V. Kupparaju,** residing at No. 281, 2nd Cross, 8th Main, 4th Phase Dollars Colony, JP Nagar, Bengaluru-560078, have changed my name to **SUNDARAMMA KUPPARAJU** vide affidavit dated 16-05-2026 before notary V Earappa, Bengaluru.

I, SHREYA KUMARI SANTHALIA, have changed to New name SHREYA SARAOGI Residing at Flat 2121, Sobha Windsor, Immadihalli Main Road, Nagondanahalli, Whitefield post, Bengaluru - 560066, vide affidavit dated 16/05/2026 before Notary Veena J, Bengaluru.

I, SRI. Prabhakara H C, R/at No. 63, Sun Grace, KPA Block, 1st Main, 6th Cross, Near KFC Restaurant, Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040, I have changed the name of my minor son "ANSHU SURYA P" to "ARYAN P" vide Affidavit dated 16.05.2026 sworn before Notary K.C. Shashikala at Bengaluru, Henceforth, my minor child shall be known as "ARYAN P" for all purposes. All concerned authorities may please note.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **REETU RANI MARJIT,** R/at No. Flat No. G3, Ground Floor, Sri Sai Palace Apartment, 3rd Main, 8th Cross, Hoysala Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Doorvaninagar Post, Bengaluru- 560016, have changed my name to **REETU C BHALLA** W/o **Chetan Bhalla** vide affidavit dated 15-05-2026 before notary Uday Kumar K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KAUSTHUBHA PRIYAN,** R/at 373, 43rd Main, Ideal Homes Layout, RR Nagar, Bangalore-560098, do hereby declare that **"Kausthubha Priyan HR", "Kausthubha Priyan"** and **"Kausthubh Priyan HR".** Hence all the three names belong to the same person i.e, me. Vide affidavit dated 15.05.2026, before notary, K.V.Prema Kumari , Bangalore

I, SOUHARD BASARALU LOKESH have changed my name to SOUARD BASARALU LOKESH vide affidavit dated: 15/5/2026 Before Notary Manohar Jeerige Bangalore.

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A ramp to purple economy

India's disability laws promise inclusion, dignity and access, yet millions continue to navigate broken pavements, inaccessible transport and invisible barriers. Even as the country struggles to become 'purple aware', persons with disabilities are building their lives through a mix of resilience and technology, discovers **Suruchi Kapur Gomes**

Jay Muthu, a senior executive at a multinational company, remembers life in London with a kind of disbelief. There, he commuted independently through buses, subways, lifts, escalators, accessible malls and public toilets, not to mention reliable last-mile connectivity. He watched cricket matches at stadiums on his own, travelled across the city without planning every movement and rarely needed to depend on others. In India, he says, the environment itself disables him. "I am not disabled; it is the environment which makes me," he says.

For Janardhan, a spinal cord injury once meant months confined to bed after a truck accident. Today, a wheelchair-cum-bike has changed his life. He now earns about Rs 1,000 a day as a delivery partner. "I am happy, and am earning now. Wish the government would help us more," he says.

Two Indias coexist uneasily: one where laws promise inclusion, and another where everyday life continues to exclude millions through broken pavements, inaccessible transport, unusable public toilets and systems designed without disability in mind. The cost is not merely social. It is economic. Globally, the idea of the "Purple Economy" frames Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) not as passive beneficiaries of welfare, but as workers, consumers, entrepreneurs and taxpayers whose participation shapes economic growth. Yet in India, this vast population remains largely invisible when it comes to infrastructure and employment.

Excluded by design

The divide widens sharply in rural India, where nearly 70 per cent of PwDs live, according to the 2011 census.

India's disability story is marked by contradictions. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, recognises 21 disabilities and mandates four per cent reservation in government jobs and five per cent in education. The government introduced the UDID (Unique Disability Identity) card scheme. The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, or Accessible India Campaign, launched in 2015, aimed to create barrier-free infrastructure, transport and digital systems. Yet implementation remains fragmented and inconsistent.

According to the Census in 2011, India had 2.68 crore persons with disabilities, around 2.21 per cent of the population. Independent researchers and disability rights groups estimate the real number may be significantly higher, between five and eight per cent of the population.

India still lacks a comprehensive national database on PwDs, updated surveys and systematic compliance audits. "With no meaningful data, we are not included in surveys and statistics. India relies on the 2011 census," says Meenakshi Balasubramanian, associate at the Institute of Public Policy and a disability advocate.

The invisibility extends to employment. Data from the Registrar General and Census Commissioner show that only 36 per cent of persons with disabilities are employed. A business daily report examining the top 30 BSE Sensex companies as of March 31, 2024, found that India Inc employs only 0.26 per cent of PwDs in the private sector, despite years of diversity and inclusion conversations.

An economic problem

Globally, according to the World Health Organisation, 1.3 billion people, around 16 per cent of the population, experience significant disability.

For Muthu, the issue is straightforward. "Disability is an economic problem," he says. "Education and support at schools — government and private — will empower them to go to college and build careers. Transportation is crucial. Today, many colleges are accessible, but if PwDs don't reach school or college, employment becomes moot."

His own childhood reflected those structural barriers. His mother carried him to school. Later, Sheshadripuram College in Bengaluru became his only realistic option because it had a lift.

Accessibility, he argues, often remains performative. A pedestrian bridge near a busy Bengaluru hospital junction has lifts, but only one works. Metro ramps exist, but pavements remain broken or blocked by bollards. Public toilets remain inaccessible or unusable. "The feeling of 'I'm not a burden' will come with a mindset shift," he says.

How India designs public spaces determines whether PwDs can work, vote, learn, travel or simply socialise independently. Last-mile connectivity, pavements, curb cuts, safe crossings, hygienic toilets and accessible transport remain among the largest barriers.

Transportation, in particular, continues to shape access to education and employment. "Even when buses have ramps, they are rarely used," says Muthu. Urban mobility expert Aswathy Dilip, managing director of ITDP (Institute for Transportation and Development Policy) India, says progress exists but remains fragmented. Continuous footpaths, safe crossings and low-floor buses are critical. Government rules now mandate low-floor buses for intra-city transport from October 2026.

She points to how activism changed policy in Tamil Nadu. "Disability Rights Alliance in TN filed a case on buses with inaccessible high floors. Today, low-floor buses have been brought into Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai," she says. Chennai alone is expected to have 1,004 buses between 2025 and 2026, including 313 low-floor buses and 294 low-floor EV buses.

In Bengaluru, APD's (Association of People with Disability) "rehab on wheels" initiative has introduced buses with lower chassis to improve last-mile mobility. "We started with one bus in 2023. We have three buses to cover the entire Greater Bengaluru Authority," says Sunil Kumar of APD. The failure of accessibility also shapes education. The death by suicide of Rahul Chaitanya Madala, a deaf student at the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, exposed institutional failure. Madala reportedly struggled without sign language interpreters despite provisions under the RPwD Act.

For many advocates, the problem lies in how India conceptualises disability itself.

"Disability cannot remain the subject of one department or ministry," says Balasubramanian. "I don't think the government has a vision; it's implementing the same projects. Universal design institutes and disability studies are pilots. There is no focus on ensuring policies and programmes across agencies effectively include us."

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has repeatedly flagged delays, under-utilisation of funds and weak monitoring in the Accessible India Campaign. Audits found that poor planning and partial implementation deprived persons with disabilities of accessible infrastructure. Yet there are pockets of progress.

Bridging the gap

Karnataka has emerged as one of the more proactive states in disability inclusion, driven in part by disability commissioner Das Suryavanshi and additional chief secretary Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta.

Suryavanshi, notably the first non-IAS officer appointed for two terms as commissioner because of his work in the sector, pioneered Karnataka's first annual Braille calendar in 1990 and a Kannada Braille Bible in 1996. He began by starting a blind school in Bidar. Today, there are three such schools with more than 1,000 students.

Karnataka has also introduced reservation for children with special needs in residential schools and expanded disability-related welfare initiatives. Rural Karnataka libraries now stock Braille texts. Social audits covering 1.95 lakh public places are underway, with a detailed report expected.

In Telangana, too, universal design initiatives and a special sports policy have encouraged inclusion. Hyderabad collector Harichandana Dasari says buildings constructed in the past five years are being retrofitted, while blind schools use audiobooks and voice-enabled glasses.

Bratati Harichandan, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Odisha, says the approach has to transition from a medical model to a strategic business structure that prioritises employment, and recognises a vast, untapped talent pool. "Their invisibility is due to our ignorance. Policies must ensure inclusive education and early career mapping, using assistive technology and skill building. Financial incentives like inclusive credits, equal opportunity policies and reasonable accommodations will go a long way," she adds.

Where policy has lagged, technology is attempting to bridge the gap. Prateek Madhav, founder and CEO of AssistTech Foundation (ATF), says the organisation has built an ecosystem focused on learning, livelihood and independent living.

In five years, ATF says it has impacted one million persons with disabilities through more than 500 assistive technology startups and collaborations across six countries. "If persons with disabilities are excluded, economies lose five to seven per cent of GDP," says Madhav. Assistive technologies are increasingly enabling employment and independence. NeoMotion, for instance, partnered with a leading online food delivery service to develop advanced wheelchairs and scooters that are now used by 7,000 to 10,000 people. ATF-supported initiatives such as Livelihood on Wheels enable persons with locomotor disabilities to work as delivery partners.

ATF is also working on hidden disabilities such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia and learning disabilities. Among the startups it supports is CogniAble, developed by IIT Delhi, which uses technology to detect early autism. Startup Sparshmind Innovation uses immersive virtual learning and digital therapeutic technologies for neuro-rehabilitation, pain management and cognitive behavioural therapy.

In Pune, ATF implemented "Illuminate" in seven deaf schools, where over 3,000 children received BLEEtech learning tools and access to a sign-language library containing 2,500 resources.

Another platform, Buddy Up Network, functions as a social networking app for persons with disabilities and caregivers.

Trestle Labs' device Kibo can read books aloud in multiple languages, digitise handwritten notes and make texts accessible on mobile phones. ATF is now working with Karnataka's rural development department to introduce it across as many as 6,000 libraries.

Progress on the horizon

Corporate India, too, is slowly beginning to respond.

"Inclusion must come from policy, compensation, culture and infrastructure — not charity or compliance," says Madhav, citing studies that show employees with disabilities often demonstrate higher commitment and lower attrition.

EnAble India has worked with over 1,000 companies across 28 states and 1,000 locations. "About 51 per cent of the people hired had severe disabilities. The landscape is changing progressively," says Shanti Raghavan, founder of EnAble India and among the pioneers of disability employment in India.

Some initiatives are already attempting to normalise accessibility in public life. Purple Rides, a partnership between EnAble India and a popular open-source ride-hailing app, has completed more than two lakh rides and generated revenues of around Rs 9 crore. Elsewhere, the Kempegowda International Airport now has sensory rooms and sunflower lanyards that support neurodiverse passengers. Banks have introduced accessible banking tools using barcodes and screen-reading software.

In the United Kingdom, the "Purple Pound" represents £300 billion in spending power. "Why is this growing taxpayer segment not universally acknowledged?" asks Muthu. Yet the gap between policy and lived experience remains stark.

Disability certification processes remain inconsistent. Certified accessibility auditors are scarce. "There are 300 guidelines in the law; India has less than 10,000 certified auditors who charge exorbitantly," says Sunil Kumar.

APD recently launched the Yes to Access app, a volunteer-driven platform that maps and audits accessibility standards. Volunteers upload photographs, after which the app checks compliance, assigns rankings and flags safety concerns.

"Changes should happen at the procurement level so universal design and accessibility are not an afterthought," says Balasubramanian. "One size does not fit all."

Another challenge is mental health. Kumar believes mental health conditions may become India's largest disability challenge in the coming years.

APD currently works with organisations such as Nimhans on rehabilitation programmes, including spinal cord injury support. "There are only 10 centres in India that can do such rehabilitation," he says. The broader challenge, advocates argue, is societal. "Our societal norms need a rethink. We need empathy not sympathy," says Muthu.

When he moved back to India, he had one non-negotiable demand: an accessible school for his daughter. He visited 12 schools before finding one that was "85 per cent accessible." Even then, the idea of a disabled toilet was met with awkward silence.

For Janardhan, survival itself remains a triumph. For Muthu, dependence remains exhausting despite professional success and family support. Still, both continue to push against a system that rarely fully sees them.

"Become purple aware," says Muthu, "and we will be purple empowered."

MIXED BAG

'Mixed Bag' is your Sunday potpourri — an assortment of snappy articles, engaging ideas and snackable nibbles about this and that, from here and there. Dip in!

The 'Gates to Hell' are dimming!

It might be the world's most baffling tourist attraction: a roaring pit of fire the size of a soccer field sitting in a barren desert.

The Darvaza crater, known as the 'Gates to Hell', lies deep in the territory of the isolated Central Asian nation of Turkmenistan. The crater has been burning for decades. Over the years, it has become a quirky draw for adventurous visitors and a puzzle for scientists and researchers. It has even been the backdrop for a self-promotional video by a Turkmen president.

But now, the flames of the 'Gates to Hell' appear to be going out.

Infrared imaging data taken this year shows that the fires within the natural gas crater are on the decline.

The Darvaza crater in Turkmenistan.

The intensity of heat from the flames has diminished by more than 75% over the last three years, according to an analysis by Capterio, a company that monitors natural gas flares.

At a time when so many fires — both real and metaphorical — have raged worldwide, this should have been entirely good news. Turkmenistan's government has vowed for years to extinguish the flames, citing environmental damage and harm to people's health. It turns out that the story isn't quite so simple.

But first, it helps to know more about the crater. Its origin is mysterious. According to local lore, Soviet geologists were drilling for oil in the 1960s or 1970s when they hit a natural gas deposit in the Karakum Desert. The ground collapsed, creating an enormous pit. The geologists set a fire in the crevice to curb the emission of toxic fumes.

They figured the fire would burn out in weeks. Instead, more than five decades later, a network of tunnels filled with gas continues to fuel the flames.

Turkmenistan says it has tried to control the gases leaking out of the crater. In a 2025 publication by the Turkmen Energy Forum, an industry group, the government attributed a decline in flames to two wells it drilled near the crater in 2024 to extract natural gas.

But Capterio, the monitoring company, says its data suggests that the flames may have begun to dim before the wells were drilled. It's unclear whether natural factors have played a role in the flames dying down.

That brings up another issue with the crater: its greenhouse gas emissions. Data from Carbon Mapper, a nonprofit organisation based in Pasadena, California, shows that the crater emitted an average of 1,300 kilograms of methane per hour from 2022 to 2025. That is a significant amount, though much less than the gases vented from some large oil and gas fields, said Daniel Cusworth, director of science for Carbon Mapper.

The flames from the crater convert methane into carbon dioxide. That is good for the planet because methane, in the short term, is a "much more potent" contributor to the warming of the climate than carbon dioxide, said Capterio CEO Mark Davis. The fires of the 'Gates to Hell' prevent the methane from being released in its raw form.

So for now, even if the flames are smaller, it may not matter much for the planet. And because methane is highly flammable, the fires are unlikely to be fully extinguished any time soon, Cusworth noted.

Last November, Beal, a tour guide, visited with a group and made an observation: "I do remember it being a little bit more roaring" in previous visits. But he said the site remained awe-inspiring, with flames rising five or six feet high. The heat was so intense, he added, that his group roasted marshmallows and brewed coffee over a fresh crack in the crater floor.

NYT

FEEDBACK
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ASTROSPEAK

Guruji Shrii Arnav

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Karan Mahajan's much-anticipated novel tries hard to weave together the citizen's personal history and the state's political evolution, but falls short of elegance, writes Saudha Kasim

Hollow at the core

In an interview with *Electric Literature* about his new novel The Complex, the author Karan Mahajan explains that while he has written a story about a family, he doesn't want it to be categorised as a "family saga". He has instead tried to tell a story where "...the characters are linked to each other through violation rather than by patrimony or inheritance."

The family at the heart of The Complex are the descendants of S P Chopra, who was one of the framers of India's constitution and a Reserve Bank governor. SP's legacy is etched into the nation's consciousness — his picture, one character observes, is "...like that of Mao in China, [hanging] on every wall". SP's children and grandchildren live together noisily and messily in a two-building residential complex in a posh Delhi neighbourhood. None of them has emulated the achievements of their illustrious patriarch. The violations (there are more than one) in the story are sexual assault and rape, with the rapist being SP's youngest, Laxman, the very definition of a failson.

Using the narrative device of the found manuscript, the book begins with a note from Mahajan describing the circumstances that led him to find the text of The Complex in the drafts folder of a Gmail account belonging to Mohit Chopra, SP's great-grandson. Mohit was an aspiring writer, troubled by his family's poisonous legacy. Writing The Complex was his way of explaining their decline, starting with what happened to his aunt, Gita, who'd moved to the US in the 1970s after marrying his uncle, Sachin.

Sachin escaped the toxic swamp of the complex, going to the US to study and work as a packaging engineer specialising in plastics. Gita, unlike Sachin, still holds on to a romantic notion of their homeland — she keeps pressing her husband that it would be better to return to India rather than continue in the cold emptiness of small-town Michigan. On a trip to India on her own, however, this attachment to India is shattered when she attends a wedding at the complex and is raped by Laxman. Mahajan (thankfully) doesn't dwell on the violent act itself; the horror of it is conveyed clearly through its impact on Gita's psyche and her helplessness — none of her in-laws is ready to listen. Laxman, his sister Vibha sickeningly suggests, was trying to help solve Sachin's and Gita's problems in conceiving a child. When Gita tries to broach the subject with Sachin without mentioning the actual rape, he waves it away, saying his relatives are "... just like that, they're all complexed."

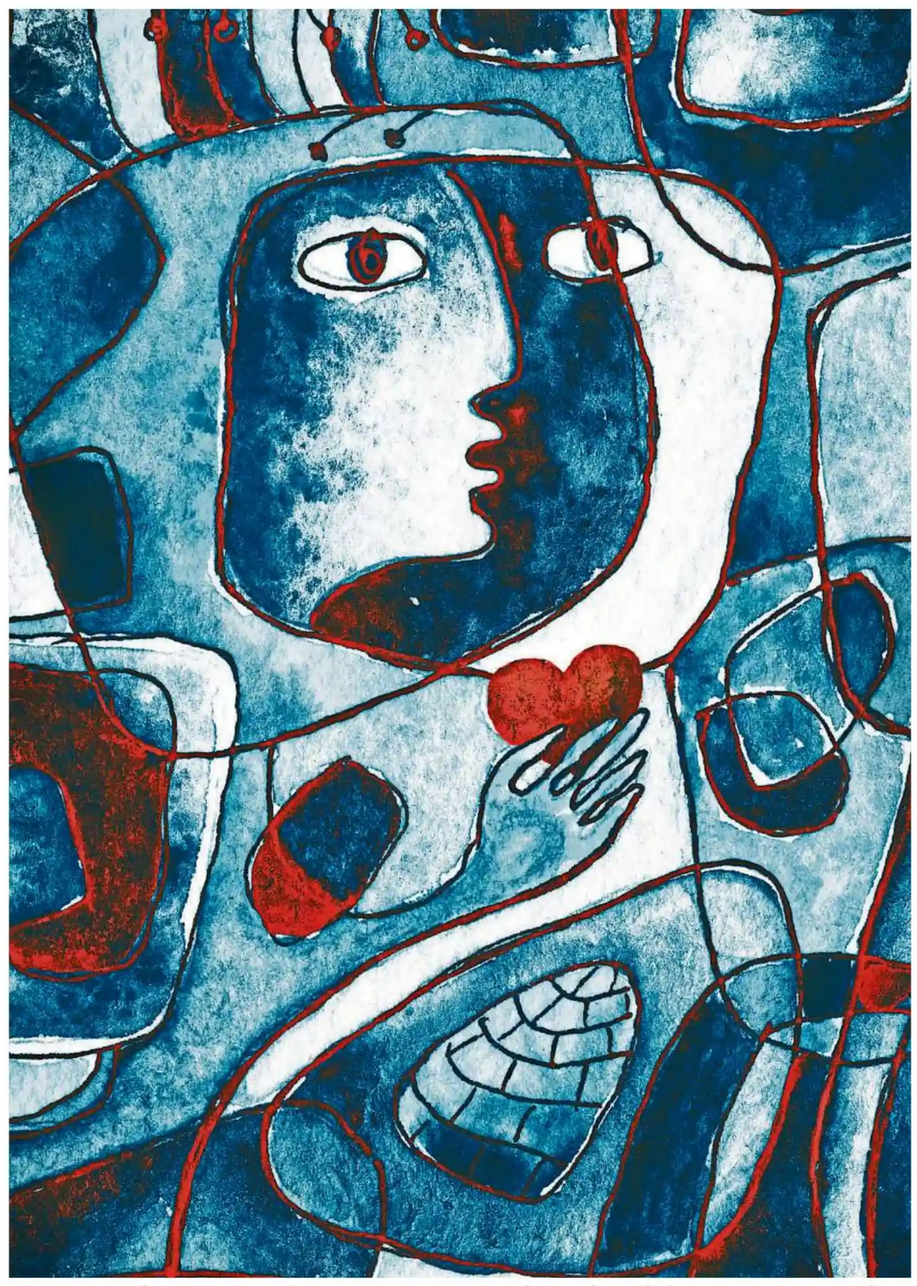
THE COMPLEX
Karan Mahajan
HarperCollins,
pp NA, Rs 799

Laxman then embarks on a years-long affair with Karishma, who is married to Sachin's older brother Brij and is Mohit's mother. Karishma — a fatal mix of Madame Bovary and Anna Karenina — is as much an instigator of this confounding relationship as Laxman. The Chopra clan turns a blind eye to this transgression as well until it reaches its inevitable, violent end.

The Complex is a baggy novel that encompasses multiple points of view, but there is a hollowness at its core. The perspectives of its most interesting characters, Gita and Karishma, are often sidelined to dive into Laxman's vacuous "double consciousness" and greasy venality. He's singularly charmless on the page (even if characters claim otherwise), always trying to start up a business (manufacturing bobby pins and, when that fails, ayurvedic balms) and initially heads the austere sect that SP once led. He isn't a spiritual person; instead using his position to embezzle donations and access a room atop the sect's temple where he carries out his sordid affairs. After failing to get into Congress (he's blocked by his older brother), he aligns himself with the Hindu nationalists, the Trishul People's Party (TPP) and finds success in the polarising years of the Ram Mandir rath yatras and the Mandal Commission protests.

Mahajan's prose tends towards over-description, some of which leaves the reader floundering — when two characters fly to London from Cairo, they doze with "...their heads forming a tent against the propeller roar". Americanisms abound in a story set for the most part in India: a character rubs "a stick of butter" on a roti in Delhi, and the Mandal protests are described as "anti-affirmative action". Female characters repeatedly shriek or are otherwise shrill. The choice to name the Congress Party and its leaders, as well as the RSS and VHP, while disguising the BJP as the TPP, is a head scratcher. One can understand that the Congress' vulnerability these days makes it easier to dissect their historical political failings and violence (the 1984 riots are part of the story), but then why not fictionalise both parties if there's a fear of repercussions?

Another novel published recently is also set in almost the same historical timeline as The Complex: Rahul Bhattacharya's Railsong. Both books braid the personal history of the citizen with the political evolution of the state, but Railsong does it with greater elegance, wit and a generosity of spirit. My suggestion would be to give Mahajan's claustrophobic Chopra complex a miss and spend time on the rails with Bhattacharya's Miss Chitol instead.



The Complex is a baggy novel that encompasses multiple points of view, but the perspectives of its most interesting characters get sidelined. (PIC FOR REPRESENTATION)

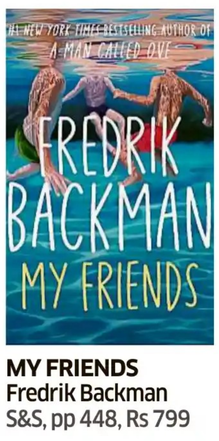
Joys and traumas of teenage bonds

This is an elegy to the friendships that keep us together when everything around us threatens to fall apart, and to the friends who refuse to leave us alone, says Rutvik Bhandari

In a small town, you don't get to choose your friends. You stumble onto strangers — on a fishing pier in a lonely little town, for example — and just like that, you're bonded for life. They arrive uninvited, sometimes stay too long, sometimes not long enough, but change your life without ever meaning to. Fredrik Backman, author of internationally bestselling books like A Man Called Ove and Anxious People, in his newest release, My Friends, chronicles the tale of such teenage friendships and how it changes lives.

In his classic satirical and conversational style, the author introduces a vibrant cast of deeply human characters: Louisa, an 18-year old orphan who breaks into a church to view the priceless artwork being sold at auction; 'The Artist', who painted the artwork in question; his best friends, Ted and Joar; and the artwork itself, titled 'The One Of The Sea', a painting of three friends on a fishing pier in front of the infinite sea. A story then unfolds as they go back in time to a summer from 25 years ago — when the painting was born.

As Louisa learns more about their past, she also grapples with her own present: the loss of her best friend and her traumatic childhood in foster homes. Backman moves effortlessly across all timelines to craft a narrative that's atmospheric and deeply intimate. Beyond this structure, My Friends emerges as a profound novel that touches upon various emotions that resonate with the human experience.



MY FRIENDS
Fredrik Backman
S&S, pp 448, Rs 799

At its heart, the story is rooted in friendship. My Friends dives deep into the themes of masculinity and male friendship, particularly between teenage boys. It perfectly captures the liminal moment when boys are no longer boys, but also not quite men either — how society, patriarchy and circumstances shape them into who they grow up to be. In a small town where lack of aggression is mistaken for femininity, My Friends explores how, despite all the bullying, some kids still preserve their innate tenderness.

This comes as a quiet rebellion in today's entertainment landscape, where stories of wasted youth are showcased with pity and, in some cases, even romanticised. 'The Artist' and Ted, who don't fall into the category of 'angry young men', are protected by the small but mighty Joar, and they, in turn, keep Joar anchored amidst his violent and troubled home life. The novel beautifully showcases how friendship can be lifesaving, in the literal sense of the word. "The world is full of miracles," Backman writes, "but none greater than how far a young person can be carried by someone else's belief in them."

As the novel progresses, Backman deftly interweaves Louisa's story into the narrative with tight little vignettes. Being an artist herself, she is drawn to their story, and she begins to find parts of herself in them and starts to imagine a new future for herself.

As time passes by, their interactions thaw her out, and she slowly starts finding herself again. Backman navigates tough topics of domestic violence, drug abuse, and grief with unmatched sensitivity. He doesn't shy away from their emotional heaviness and leaves abundant space for healing.

Alongside these fully realised characters, art itself becomes a powerful presence which grounds the whole story. 'The One Of The Sea' doesn't remain just a world-famous painting; it becomes the personification of their collective life, their love for each other, their struggles and how they rose above it. It showcases the love the artist felt for his friends and how, despite not being in it, he's everywhere in it. "Art is what we leave of ourselves in other people," Backman writes, in what may be the book's most moving line.

The book keeps readers invested and in the pursuit of "What happens next?" With his signature comedic style interspersed with tender and emotional moments, the story builds to a climax, which leaves readers with a mix of emotions; half bitter and half sweet. It prods the reader over and over again and asks, "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

Echoing the pursuit of 'okayness' in The Emperor of Gladness by Ocean Vuong and the emotional intimacy of Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart, My Friends is an elegy to the friendships that keep us together when everything around us threatens to fall apart — a reminder that no matter how lonely we are, our 'iiidiiot' friends rarely leave us alone.

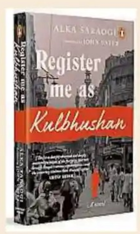
MOODBOARD

The West Bengal elections may be over, but these translated novels are a way to understand eastern India's politics, passions and peculiarities a little better:

Four Angry Women by Kabita Singha (The Antonym Collections):
In the vibrant, tumultuous Kolkata of the 1970s, four girls in their late teens navigate a city brimming with tradition and transformation. As the world around them shifts, they grapple with the complexities of womanhood, sexuality, friendship, and the relentless pursuit of their own voices amidst societal expectations and burgeoning independence of a new era.

Our Madhopur Home by Tripurari Sharan (S&S):
Told from the perspective of a dog, Laura, this is a sprawling family saga about homes, displacement, and loss. Spanning three generations and a hundred years, it is a story of people, and it is a story of its times. As the patriarch of the family sees his children grow up and take different directions in their own lives, rural society in Bihar is also in a state of flux around him. Family expands, distance emerges, and between the walls of the house, finding home sometimes becomes difficult.

Register Me As Kulbhushan by Alka Saraogi (Penguin):
Traversing the streets of Calcutta in his one-and-a-half slippers, our dark, lanky hero, variously known as Bhushan Chacha, Kulbhushan Jain and Gopal Chandra Das, wanders a maze of memories, searching for himself. Like many East Bengalis scarred by the trauma of Partition, he has trained himself to dive into forgetfulness. But forgetfulness has a cost.



Mood Board *is a column that presents thematic lists of books on hot-button topics.*

Remembrances that travel across borders

In Banerjee's hands, the city becomes an archive of feeling, where the aftershocks of history linger not in monuments, but in everyday memories, writes Anjali Chauhan

Borders announce themselves with barbed wire and checkpoints, their authority marked unmistakably on maps and in the language of geopolitics. But these very borders often work more quietly, settling into the routines of everyday life — into the paperwork that governs marriage, the long choreography of visas and travel, and the stories families tell children about where they come from. In Absolute Jafar, Sarnath Banerjee turns his attention to these quieter manifestations of geographies of the nation-states.

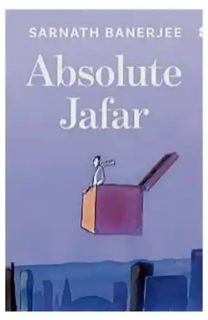
The graphic novel traces how the political divide between India and Pakistan persists not only as a territorial fact but as an intimate condition, shaping love, parenthood, memory, and the fragile inheritance of belonging. Banerjee is particularly attentive to the mundane infrastructures through which borders make themselves felt, forms to be filled, waiting rooms to be endured, and immigration counters where lives are briefly reduced to documents. In these bureaucratic encounters, possibility narrows almost imperceptibly, revealing how the afterlife of the border continues to inhabit the textures of ordinary life long after the grand narratives of nation and Partition have faded into the background.

The author displays a deep preoccupation with cities and the fragile recollections they hold. (PIC FOR REPRESENTATION)

Threaded through this intimate cartography is a deep preoccupation with cities and the fragile memories they hold. Banerjee returns to the urban landscapes that have long animated his work. Delhi, Karachi, and other cities appear less as fixed locations than as emotional terrains shaped by movement, separation, and recollection. The cities in the novel are remembered as much as they are inhabited, filtered through nostalgia, anecdotes, and fragments of family lore.

Streets, cafes, and neighbourhoods become repositories of personal and political histories, quietly absorbing the weight of migrations, departures, and estranged intimacies. What emerges is a subtle yet humorous meditation on inheritance, about how memories travel across borders even when bodies cannot. How the stories adults carry, of cities once lived in, friendships interrupted, and homes left behind, become part of the imaginative world their children grow up inhabiting. In Banerjee's hands, the city becomes an archive of feeling, where the aftershocks of history linger not in monuments or official records, but in everyday recollections that refuse to settle neatly within the lines of maps or grand narratives.

Innovatively, "walking" is one of the novel's quiet narrative methods. Not only does the protagonist, Brighu, adore walking, but also much of Absolute Jafar unfolds through movement on foot, with the characters drifting through neighbourhoods, lingering on streets, relaxing in parks, where memories seem to surface unexpectedly. These walks are rarely purposeful in the conventional sense; instead, they allow the narrative to wander across time and place, gathering fragments of conversation, historical anecdotes, and visual detail along the way. For Banerjee, walking becomes a way of reading the city, an unhurried practice of noticing how personal memory and political history settle into the urban landscape. The slow pace of the graphic form reinforces this rhythm.



ABSOLUTE JAFAR
Sarnath Banerjee
HarperCollins,
pp 272, Rs 799

The illustrations stretch moments of observation, allowing readers to dwell on small gestures and passing scenes that might otherwise go unnoticed. Through these meandering journeys, the novel suggests that cities are not simply inhabited but continually interpreted, their meanings assembled through the everyday act of moving through them.

If the novel begins with the bureaucratic architecture of the nations, it ends by dwelling on the quieter, more ambiguous condition of diaspora, of lives stretched between nations, languages, and histories. In Banerjee's telling, migration is not only a story of departure but of ongoing negotiation, of learning to inhabit unfamiliar streets while carrying the sediment of other places within oneself.

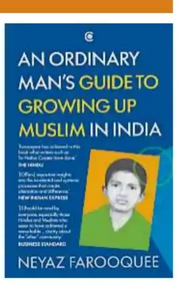
The novel is attentive to the emotional texture of this condition; the small dislocations of living abroad, the way memory rearranges itself in distance, the persistent question of where one truly belongs. Yet Banerjee resists easy nostalgia. Instead, he suggests that belonging is rarely singular or stable; it is rather assembled through fragments of stories, inherited memories, and fleeting encounters across nations and generations. In this sense, Absolute Jafar speaks to a wider South Asian experience, where histories of partition, migration, and global mobility continue to shape everyday life. What remains, finally, are the stories we carry with us, across borders, across time, and the fragile hope that they might still offer a way of imagining home.

READ OF THE WEEK

The Batla House encounter. September 19, 2008. That one day changed the life of a young man from Inderwan Bairam in Bihar's Gopalganj district. An overprotected childhood in the village, an ambitious migration to Delhi as a young boy for better education, an undisciplined and shiftless adolescence, all of this history is flattened out into one tiny slice of Neyaz Farooquee's identity: Muslim. From Jamia Nagar. Who lived practically next door to the terrorists who had been killed in the encounter. A potential terrorist himself? How, after all, does a man prove that he is (and not merely pretending to be) a normal human being?

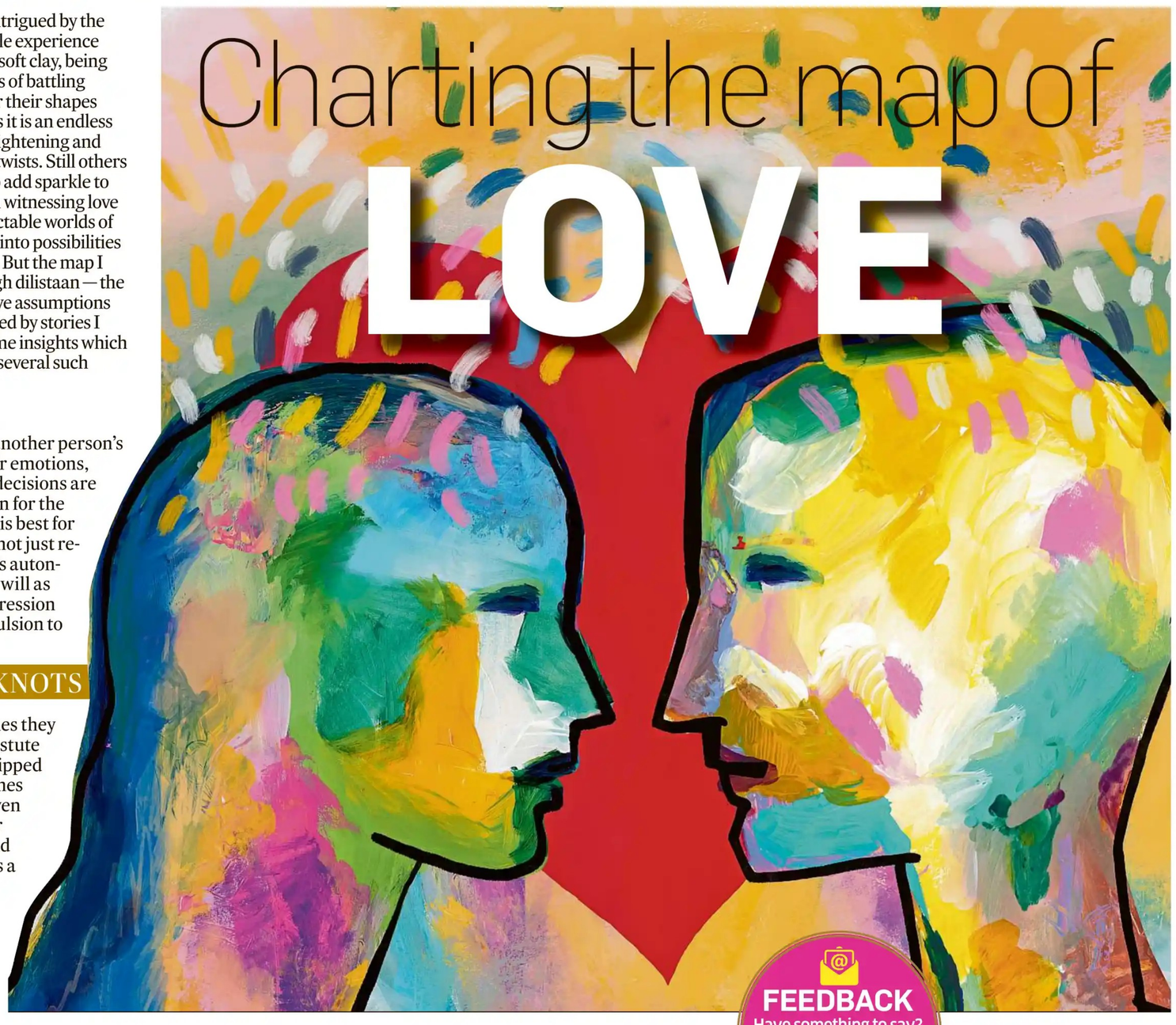
An Ordinary Man's Guide To Growing Up Muslim In India is an honest and fierce portrait, suffused with humour and sagacity, of what it is like to be young and Muslim in India. Sardonic and wise, Farooquee scrapes out the unvarnished truth about identity and stereotypes, about life in a ghetto, and the small and big disappointments that make up an ordinary life.

Neyaz Farooquee is a journalist based in Delhi. He was a fellow at the New India Foundation and Sarai-CSDS. He currently works with the *BBC* and has contributed to the *New York Times*, *Al Jazeera* and *Tehelka*.



Navigating the landscape of love can mean different things to different people. Arundhati Ghosh shares the many insights she has gained as she journeys through the terrain of the heart

Charting the map of LOVE



I have always been intrigued by the ways in which people experience love. For some, it is soft clay, being moulded by two sets of battling hands searching for their shapes of desire; for some others it is an endless string in tentative grips tightening and loosening with tugs and twists. Still others use it as magic powder to add sparkle to dull surfaces. I have been witnessing love as journeys into unpredictable worlds of intimacies that spill over into possibilities beyond our imagination. But the map I carry as I traverse through dilistaan — the terrain of the heart — have assumptions which are often challenged by stories I come upon. Here are some insights which have been gleaned from several such encounters.

Control is never care

The act of dominating another person's choices, regulating their emotions, and determining their decisions are often masked as concern for the loved one. 'I know what is best for you', the partner rules, not just restricting the individual's autonomy but imposing their will as well. This apparent expression of care is in fact a compulsion to control.

TIES AND KNOTS

The controller assumes they are more aware, more astute and certainly more equipped to command the outcomes of the loved one's life, even when it makes the other person feel resentful and inadequate. Control has a 'need to be needed', enforcing dependencies. Control asphyxiates. Care however offers itself without strings attached and respects the loved one's wishes to accept or decline. Care stands by even in disagreement, ready to lift in case of a fall.

In the rare occasion when self-harm is likely — care cajoles, even coerces and takes difficult stances, but always with the loved one's freedom and dignity in mind. Where care listens and waits for consent, control takes over agency and regiments.

While care is about love, control has always been about power. No matter how blurry the boundaries may seem in our society where control and care have been conflated too often, in a relationship, it is crucial to distinguish between the two.

Reciprocation is overrated

The pathos weighing down — unrequited love — never sat comfortably with me. As if a love that is unable to induce a mirror image of itself in another person must be bullied to lament. Love is the luminescence we feel in our hearts when we encounter compassion, courage, and beauty in another person. The one we love may not reciprocate with loving us in the same manner, or loving us at all. Which only suggests our inability to build one specific kind of relationship that we hoped for with them. But it does in no way exclude the many other possibilities of connections of care we can nurture with that person. And who is to say that one of those various ways of relating will not make us joyous? After all, love has as many definitions as those who love, and we can invent what works for us. Unless, if the other person does not consent to any relationship whatsoever with us, then we must abide by their wishes and retreat. And we can continue to feel grateful that we were, for a while, witness to their shimmer and carry it within us.

FEEDBACK
Have something to say? Send your feedback and suggestions to arufeedback @gmail.com

Baggage is a blessing

Many friends who are dating post forty are anxious about the baggage of their potential partners. They worry how ghosts from the past will impact their burgeoning new relationships.

I, however, feel that there is no need to be too apprehensive. Firstly, post forty it is highly unlikely that we would not have endured a few battles and earned the scars — our baggage to carry. While we hold and heal differently, the bruises are testament to having lived.

In fact, at this age, I would be suspicious of pristine skin devoid of these historical evidences of loving. Carrying the weight of past failures also indicates taking responsibility for at least some part of the damage, and being more grounded in the acceptance of one's fallibility. Secondly, I feel the question really should be whether the baggage is being processed. Unlike processed food, processed baggage is indeed a blessing. It makes us self-aware, tempers unreasonable expectations, and never takes kindness for granted. But most importantly it opens us to accept vulnerability and nurture the potential partner's wounds with empathy. To turn a popular phrase around, I feel 'once bitten, twice gentle'. 'Maybe' is an acceptable answer: Binaries are tiresome. Whether it is the infamous war mongering of 'you are either with us, or against us', or the idea that one can only identify as a man or a woman and nothing exists in between or outside — binaries obfuscate complexity and squeeze away nuance from all experiences. The arrogance of certitude that justifies binaries is also exhausting. Tossed together, the outcomes of the over-assured 'yes' and 'no' as the only responses to enquiries make for a ridiculously flattened world.

'May be' is just fine

Increasingly, I find the need for doubt and tentativeness and 'may be' as an acceptable response in conversations about love. Love is messy, irrational — often confusing. It is immensely possible to be unsure of whether we love someone, want to have sex with them, want to live together or break up. We could be in fluid states processing our feelings, not quite equipped for the surge of emotions washing over us, and searching desperately to make meaning of unbearable pleasure or excruciating pain. There, between the polar certainties of yes and no lie a multitude of possibilities embodied in the 'may be' — a kindness delivered to ourselves and others. It is a pause – for more time, less pressure. It allows for relationships to organically meander into their desired flows.

In the art of map making, 'ground truthing' is a significant step. After all the data about the region to be charted is compiled by remote means, the cartographer physically walks through the land to verify, validate and revise the information. In matters of love too, much is to be gained by juxtaposing received notions and inherited definitions with lived realities and experiential wisdom. Otherwise, as Adrienne Rich writes in Twenty One Love Poems XIII, "The rules break like a thermometer" because "the maps they gave us were out of date."

(This column navigates the various worlds of entangled relationships attempting to celebrate, cope with, and reimagine the meanings of our connections. Arundhati Ghosh is a writer, cultural practitioner, social activist, and traveller. All Our Loves: Journeys with Polyamory in India is her first book in English published by Aleph Book Company in 2025.)

DECODED

Demigender vs bigender

Gender identities are layered and complex; one can't look at them in binaries. The vocabulary expands to accommodate a range of identities. Take demigender, for instance. It refers to an individual who feels a partial connection with a specific gender. The other part of their identity could be another gender, genderless or neutral as well. A demigirl, in that sense, is someone who identifies as female partially, irrespective of gender that's assigned at birth. A demiboy is an individual identifying partially as a man/boy. When it comes to the pronouns that demigender individuals are likely to use, there is no specific set, and their use is an individual choice.

What then is the difference between bigender and demigender? While a bigender identity means experiencing two distinct genders simultaneously or separately, an individual who identifies as demigender experiences different gender identities partially. The intensity of experience in a demigender identity is partial while in a bigender identity, it is complete (at the same time or at different times).

The prefix demi essentially means half (think demigod, half divine, half human, for instance). The term demigender refers to an individual's gender identity and is distinct from demisexual, which refers to sexual attraction.

A demisexual person doesn't feel sexually attracted to others until they form an emotional connection.

(Curated by Savitha Karthik)

*(**Decoded** demystifies gender concepts and breaks them down into easy-to-understand language.)*

Travel

Srinagar is often a pitstop for travellers heading to Gulmarg or Sonmarg, but the city has much to offer, if you were to pause and explore, writes Pallabi Dey Purkayastha

An ode to BEAUTY

I wake up at the crack of dawn for my scheduled visit to the only floating vegetable market in Kashmir's Dal Lake, but even before I can venture out of my houseboat, I'm spellbound. As the birds chirp away, paving the path for the first ray of light to hit the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, I sip on my piping hot cup of khawa and glance over my shoulder. I catch a stork foot-stirring the water for aquatic prey, before turning my head toward a thick bed of lotuses sitting prettily opposite my porch.

The air, too, plays into the morning drama — misty yet mindful. And as the fog brushes against my face, I shut my eyes for a second and a shikarawala paddles past me, crooning what I was later told was a Kashmiri swansong.

"Srinagar is a romantic poem in motion," I declare, and my fellow travellers nod in agreement. This city often ends up being a stopover to its more famous neighbours, such as Gulmarg, Sonmarg, and the like. What's more, it can be explored within a 48-hour window.

Day 1

Start with the Shankaracharya Temple: I began my day with a serene drive up the hill to the Shankaracharya Temple, one of Srinagar's oldest and most revered shrines. From the top, the entire city opened up below me — Dal Lake shimmering in the soft light, mountains wrapping the valley like a quiet embrace. **Entry fee: Free**

Descend to the Pari Mahal: Then, I wandered down to Pari Mahal, its cascading terraces offering picture-perfect views of Srinagar. Walking through the old arches and gardens, I felt like I'd stepped into a quiet slice of history suspended above the city.
Entry fee: Indians: Rs 20, foreign nationals: Rs 100

Follow it up with visits to the nearby Chashme Shahi, Nishat Bagh, and Shalimar Bagh.
Chashme Shahi: I stopped at Chashme Shahi to sip from its famed natural spring and stroll through the neatly manicured terraces, which was undoubtedly a refreshing little pause surrounded by blooming gardens.
Entry fee: Rs 20 per person
Nishat Bagh: At Nishat Bagh, I traced the long pathways lined with fountains, with the Zabarwan range rising grandly behind me and Dal Lake stretching wide in front. It's a view I could admire for hours and never grow out of it. **Entry fee:** Rs 30 per person

Shalimar Bagh: With ancient chinar trees casting gentle shade, it transported me straight to the Mughal-era pavilions.
Entry fee: Rs 20 per person
Opt for a shikara ride to Chaar Chinar Gardens and Hazratbal Mosque: In the late afternoon, I made my way to one of the ghats at Dal Lake and boarded a shikara, gliding over Dal Lake's glassy waters. The ride felt almost dreamlike as I drifted onto the small patch of land leading up to the iconic Chaar Chinar Gardens before heading towards the serene white silhouette of Hazratbal Mosque, a peaceful end to a day spent exploring Srinagar.
Entry fee: Free
Shikara ride: As the city's skyline turns blue-tangerine in colour, begin your sunset shikara ride. The shikarawalas call the golden hour boat ride the "sunset" or "honeymoon ride". I can see why. This is where you do your most dramatic photos and videos for the 'gram.

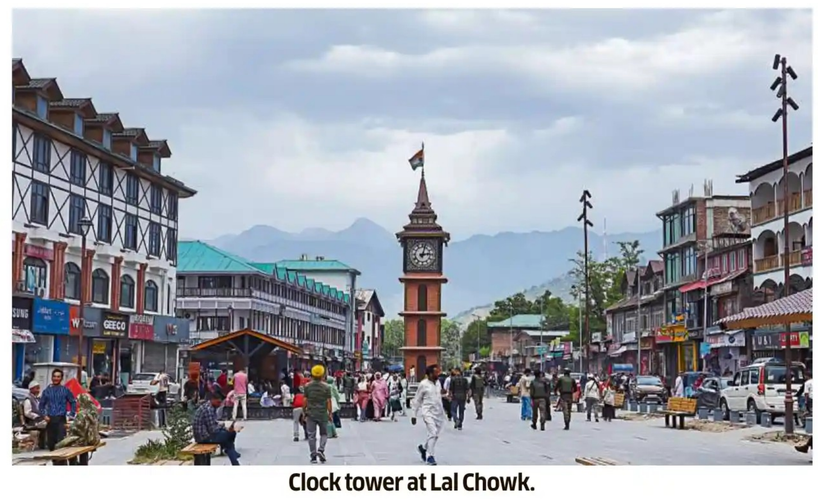
Entry fee: Between Rs 1,000 and 1,500 for an hour-long shikara ride.
Pro tip: Haggle!

Traditional Wazwan dinner: I ended my night with a traditional Wazwan dinner at a local restaurant, which was a grand Kashmiri feast centred around rich, slow-cooked meat dishes like rogan josh, yakhni, gushtaba, and tabak maaz, among others.
Price: Rs 2,000 for two (approx.)

48-HOUR GUIDE

Day 2

Start your day with a trip to the floating vegetable market on Dal Lake: I set out before sunrise, gliding through quiet waterways to the market. Surrounded by boats piled high with fresh produce and early-morning chatter, it felt like witnessing Srinagar wake up from the water itself.
Entry fee: You only have to pay for the shikara ride (Rs 1,000-1,200 approx.)
Head over to the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Botanical Gardens: Wide lawns, fresh mountain air, and bursts of flowers made for a calm, scenic stroll beneath the Zabarwan range.
Entry fee: Indians: Rs 25, foreign nationals: Rs 300
Follow it up with a trip to the soothing Achabal Garden: The sound of gushing spring water and the shade of old chinar trees created a soothing retreat, a quiet and much-needed pause in the middle of the day.



Clock tower at Lal Chowk.

Entry fee: Rs 40 per person
Step into the iconic Jamia Masjid Srinagar: As I enter the masjid with its grand wooden pillars and serene courtyard framed by chinar trees, I felt the calm of centuries-old faith and history settling gently around me.
Tip: respect local traditions and cover your head and dress modestly.
Entry fee: Free
Explore Koker Bazar in Lal Chowk: In the afternoon, I wandered through one of Srinagar's oldest markets — picking up a small box of saffron, those renowned Kashmiri spices such as Kashmiri laal mirch powder and kanwal masala tikki, and little silverware as souvenirs while weaving through its bustling yet intimate lanes.

Mutton rogan josh and Kashmiri pulao dinner: For dinner, I headed to a local favourite restaurant for a taste of mutton rogan josh and fragrant Kashmiri pulao — both part of the valley's famed wazwan tradition, and it was iconic (taste-wise) to say the least.

Shalimar Garden, a legacy of the Mughal era.

Shikaras on Dal Lake.

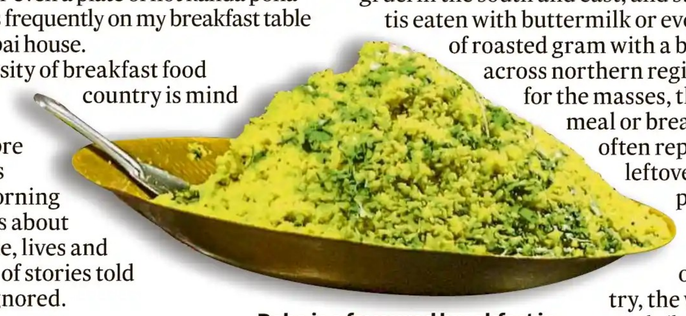
Waking up to stories of **sustenance**

The morning meal can mean many things, from sustenance to memory, and sharing. Priyadarshini Chatterjee narrates how breakfast has evolved over the decades and the stories it tells us of cities and communities

Naati Biriyani, a rice and meat combination served at 'military hotels' of Bengaluru, is a sumptuous meal. DH FILE PHOTO

Even if I am not a believer in 'rising with the sun', I quite like waking up to the promise of a sumptuous breakfast — it could be a warm, chewy, sesame-crusted bagel slathered with cream cheese from my neighbourhood café, perhaps, or a thhala heaped with piping hot, puffed-up luchi paired with nigella-scented potato curry, once the non-negotiable Sunday breakfast at my parents' home in Kolkata, or even a plate of hot kanda poha that appears frequently on my breakfast table in my Mumbai house.

The diversity of breakfast food across the country is mind boggling, but even more intriguing is what the morning meal reveals about cities, people, lives and livelihoods, of stories told and those ignored.



Poha is a favoured breakfast in some parts of India.

A non-linear history

The story of the morning meal, or breakfast, isn't a linear one. Many believe that we are originally a two-meal culture — one at midday and the other in the evening. But, there are numerous references in historical texts that speak of an older, longer tradition of a morning meal. Besides, for a society as diverse and striated as ours, divided on class and caste lines, a uniform eating pattern is unlikely. What and when one eats has historically depended on who they were and what they did.

Buddhist texts, for instance, refer to monks partaking of a slight early morning repast of rice cakes and milk, or sour gruel. The Kummasapinda Jataka mentions how Bodhisatta, in his past life as a wage worker, bought sour gruel for his breakfast and went out to his farm work. The idea of a morning meal is also woven into language. For instance, Sanskrit words pratarasa and kalyavarta denoted a light morning meal. In the ancient Sanskrit play, Svapnavasavadatta by Bhasa, the king's companion Vasantaka — whose fondness for sweet food is well known — laments that he could not eat anything in the morning, when he was sure to get a rich dish for breakfast.

But the morning meal, across the world, has first served as sustenance for labouring masses. Agrarian folks would often eat a small meal at the crack of dawn to fuel their bodies for hours of hard labour in the fields. In India, traditional morning meals, especially among the agrarian masses, often consisted of dishes like kanji and fermented rice gruel in the south and east, and stale chapatis eaten with buttermilk or even a handful of roasted gram with a bit of jaggery across northern regions. In fact, for the masses, the morning meal or breakfast was often repurposed leftovers from the previous night. In many parts of the country, the word baasi or stale/leftovers is used as a synonym for breakfast.

The morning meal, of course, has evolved over time. Colonial rule, industrialisation, and later economic liberalisation have all reconfigured the meal. Colonial trade, for instance, introduced novelties like bread, biscuits, malted drinks and beverages like tea and coffee that were once taboo among orthodox Hindus, particularly the caste elite, on grounds of impurity and pollution, but without which our mornings are unthinkable today. But for many, the morning meal remains a matter of necessity, as sustenance for labour and the day's uncertainties.

Luchi and aloo is a popular breakfast combination and is sold as a street food in Kolkata.

Near Delhi's railways stations and construction sites, kadhi-chawal is a sought-after morning meal.

The phenomenon of morning meals is integral to urban landscapes too. Think of the migrant labourers gathered around a thattukada in Kochi digging into plates of mutton chops cooked in a thin gravy of roasted coconut and deep fried savala vadas. Then, there are the odd jobbers and daily wagers who stand on street corners around Old Delhi's labour chowks dunking rusks into cups of sweet, gingery milk tea. At the dockyards and fish markets of Mumbai, fishermen and fishmongers, men and women, polish off plates of rice and shingala amti or bhakhris paired with piquant Bombil chutney. Across Indian cities, breakfast spaces are primarily occupied by the working masses. These breakfasts are nothing like the ones served up in bougie breakfast cafes. This is functional food that feeds people on the move.

In the bazaars of Shillong, for instance, people dig into plates of rice served with a rainbow of accompaniments — eclectic condiments, minimalist curries and smoked meats — early in the morning. In Delhi, outside railways stations and construction sites, men polish off plates of rajma chawal and kadhi chawal, as early as 8 am. In fact, it is not uncommon in many Indian households to eat a full rice and curry meal before leaving for the day's work. In fact, growing up in Kolkata, my school-day breakfast was often a mush of buttered rice paired with mashed potatoes and crisp fried pavé of fish or boiled eggs. It's a meal I still long for on certain hurried mornings.

Food and stories of people

Food is such a tenacious carrier of memories as it is gravid with stories and history. Breakfast foods and establishments across the country also tell tales of people and communities, or homes and hearth left behind, and migrant labour and enterprise that runs cities. Take for instance, the unctuous plates of dal gosht or gurda kaleji maghaz cooked in rich gravies, or plump beef tikiyas made with minced meat, often the cheaper cuts, served early in the morning in the Muslim eateries in Kolkata, that nourish crowds of working class men who fill up on these calorie-dense meals before the day's work begins. These dishes and establishments do not tell the story of an exiled royal and his entourage that dominate stories around Kolkata's fabled Mughlai food. These breakfast spreads train the spotlight on numerous waves of migrants from around the country.

In Bengaluru, where breakfast stories are dominated by the vegetarian offerings of hotels and restaurants started by Brahmins who migrated from the Udupi region, 'military hotels' serve up everything from robust meat curries and pulaos, but also offal and blood — food often associated with the marginalised, and pushed to the boundaries of dominant food narratives. While popular narratives celebrate the city's rice-based delicacies like idli and dosey, crowds gather around roadside stalls to drink glasses of ragi ganji or ambali, a gruel made of ragi and broken wheat, served mixed with majjige or buttermilk, a recipe concocted to support hard labour, and perhaps not spotlighted in breakfast stories because the resilient ragi, before it became a fad, has primarily been food of the marginalised.

(The author is a journalist and food-culture writer who has just published First Bite: Breakfast Stories from Urban India, Speaking Tiger Books.)

COOKING DILEMMA

Umami flavours: When to add

Umami is the taste that enhances a meal, and brings an element of savouriness to a meal. The umami factor in the meal is what makes you feel satisfied when you eat certain dishes; seasonings include miso, soy and fish sauce, MSG or even tomato paste. When should one add these seasonings while cooking? If you are cooking meat, or fish, you can marinade umami-based flavours to marinades before cooking.

On the other hand, if you are making sauces for pasta, gravies or soups, you can add the umami seasoning while you cook. If you are adding tomato paste or mushrooms, you can add them at the beginning, so the savoury base is created. Mid way during the cooking or towards the end, you can add soy or fish sauce. When you are cooking the stir-fry, make sure you add the umami seasoning towards the end of the meal rather than at the beginning to bring out the flavour more. If you are using miso paste, use it towards the end.

If you are roasting potatoes or other vegetables, you can sprinkle some umami seasonings just before you eat. Cheese also needs to be grated at the end. Keep in mind that that if you are adding the umami seasoning, you can lower the table salt quantity to the dish.

Curated by Savitha Karthik
*(**Cooking Dilemma** answers that one question which pops up when you are about to try a recipe and didn't know whom to ask.)*

Add tomato paste at the beginning to create a savoury base.

Is there protein on your plate?

Everyone's thinking about protein and how to include it in their meals. But how should you go about adding protein without exactly overhauling your life? Amita Gadre gives you simple and actionable tips to make everyday Indian meals protein-forward

Many people come to me with the same question, worded a hundred different ways. "I'm eating properly; why am I always tired?" Or, "I go to the gym, but nothing is changing." Or simply, "My doctor says I have low protein, but I don't know how to start. "And when I sit with them, and we go through what they actually eat in a day, I can almost always spot the problem before they finish talking. Nearly 95 per cent of the time, it's that they're eating without protein in mind. And that one gap is behind more of their symptoms than they realise.

YOUR AIM
- Ideal daily protein target for a healthy adult: **0.8 - 1 g** per kg of body weight
- Ideal protein aim per meal: **15-20 g**

How much protein is in your food?

Common portions and approximate protein content
- One cup cooked rajma – **15g**
- 100g paneer – **18g**
- One cup curd (dahi) – **6g**
- One glass milk (250 ml) – **8g**
- Two moong dal chilla – **10g**

NUTRITION MATTERS

So let me ask you directly, how much protein did you eat yesterday? Not roughly. Not "I had two eggs, so probably enough." Actually, think about it. Because here's what most of us don't know: Most Indians following a traditional vegetarian diet consume only about 30 to 40 grams on a good day. The body actually requires nearly double that, around 0.8 to 1 gram for every kilogram of body weight.

How to think protein-first in every meal
- Choose your protein anchor first. Before deciding anything else, ask: **dal, paneer, curd, egg, chicken** or **soy**?
- Estimate your quantity. Aim for at least **1 cup (200 - 240 ml)** per meal.
- Build the rest around it. Add your **vegetables, carbohydrates**, and **seasoning**. The protein is already sorted.

The solution isn't to abandon the food you love or start eating like a bodybuilder. It's something far simpler, and that's exactly what protein-forward thinking is about.

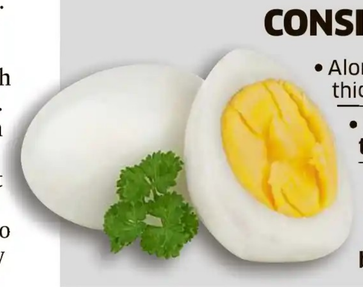
Protein-forward thinking simply means one thing: before you plan any meal, you ask one question first: Where is my protein coming from? The vegetables, the carbohydrates, the flavour, all of that comes second.

The good part is that we already have everything we need in our kitchens. For vegetarians: paneer, tofu, dals, lentils, sprouts, tempeh, curd, milk. For non-vegetarians: eggs, chicken, fish.

The real challenge is how often protein shows up on your plate- every single day; and whether you're eating enough of it.

One of the most effective strategies is to start with one meal at a time, maybe breakfast. Many people eat virtually no protein in the morning, a cup of chai and two biscuits, perhaps. Swapping just that first meal to include moong dal chilla or two whole eggs can add 10 to 12 grams before the day has properly begun. Just this small addition can make a huge difference in your day. Perhaps the most important shift is psychological. Most people wait until they've planned what they want to eat and then try to fit protein in afterwards. Protein-forward thinking reverses that order entirely. Pick your protein source first. Build the flavour around it.

CONSIDER THESE SWAPS



- Along with plain roti and sabzi, add a big bowl of thick **moong dal**.
- Instead of poha alone for breakfast, pair it with **two boiled eggs** or high-protein **yoghurt**.
- Instead of vegetable pulao, try **rajma/tofu** pulao.
- Instead of a bhel or chivda as a snack, eat **boiled chana** chaat.

Within a few weeks, what feels like discipline becomes habit, and what felt like effort becomes instinct. Your body is extraordinarily capable of thriving on a plant-based diet or a mix of both plant and animal-based diets. But it needs consistent, adequate protein to do so.

One step at a time, one meal at a time, is not a compromise. It is, in fact, exactly how lasting habits are built.

(The author is a nutritionist and author of What, How Much & How to Eat: Simple and Sustainable, published by Bloomsbury India.)

MYTHBUSTER

Asthma inhalers: Common misgivings

DR SAI SUNDEEP CHODISETTI

For decades, inhalers have remained the cornerstone of asthma treatment. Yet across India, patients continue to avoid them out of fear — of "dependency," steroids, and fear that inhalers may weaken the lungs.

These misconceptions are not only scientifically incorrect but also potentially dangerous. Many asthma patients suffer unnecessarily because they delay or avoid inhaler therapy due to myths and social stigma. Ironically, untreated asthma causes far greater harm to the lungs than inhalers ever do.

Asthma is not simply a breathing problem; it is a chronic inflammatory disease of the airways. During flare-ups, the air passages become swollen, narrow, and overly sensitive, leading to wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, and breathlessness. Unlike tablets, inhalers deliver medication directly to the lungs, where treatment is needed most. This targeted delivery allows faster action with much smaller doses and fewer side effects. This is why inhalers are regarded as the most effective and safest long-term treatment for asthma.

There are two categories of inhalers:
- **Reliever inhalers**, which provide quick relief during sudden attacks
- **Preventer inhalers**, which control airway inflammation and reduce future flare-ups

The confusion begins with preventer inhalers that contain inhaled corticosteroids. The word "steroid" often creates panic. Many assume inhaled steroids are similar to high-dose oral steroids or muscle-building substances used illegally in sports.

Inhaled steroids used for asthma are entirely different from the steroids people commonly fear. The dose delivered through inhalers is extremely small and acts mainly inside the lungs, with minimal absorption into the bloodstream.

In fact, inhaled steroids prevent repeated asthma attacks, emergency hospital visits, and long-term airway damage. International asthma guidelines continue to recommend them as essential therapy for asthma.

Perhaps the biggest misconception is that inhalers create dependency but in reality, they are not addictive. If a patient stops inhalers abruptly without medical advice, symptoms may return.

Many patients still rely on home remedies, steam inhalation, or intermittent medication instead of consistent asthma control. Inhalers should not be viewed as a last resort, but as a scientifically proven, lung-protective therapy that enables asthma patients to live healthy and active lives.

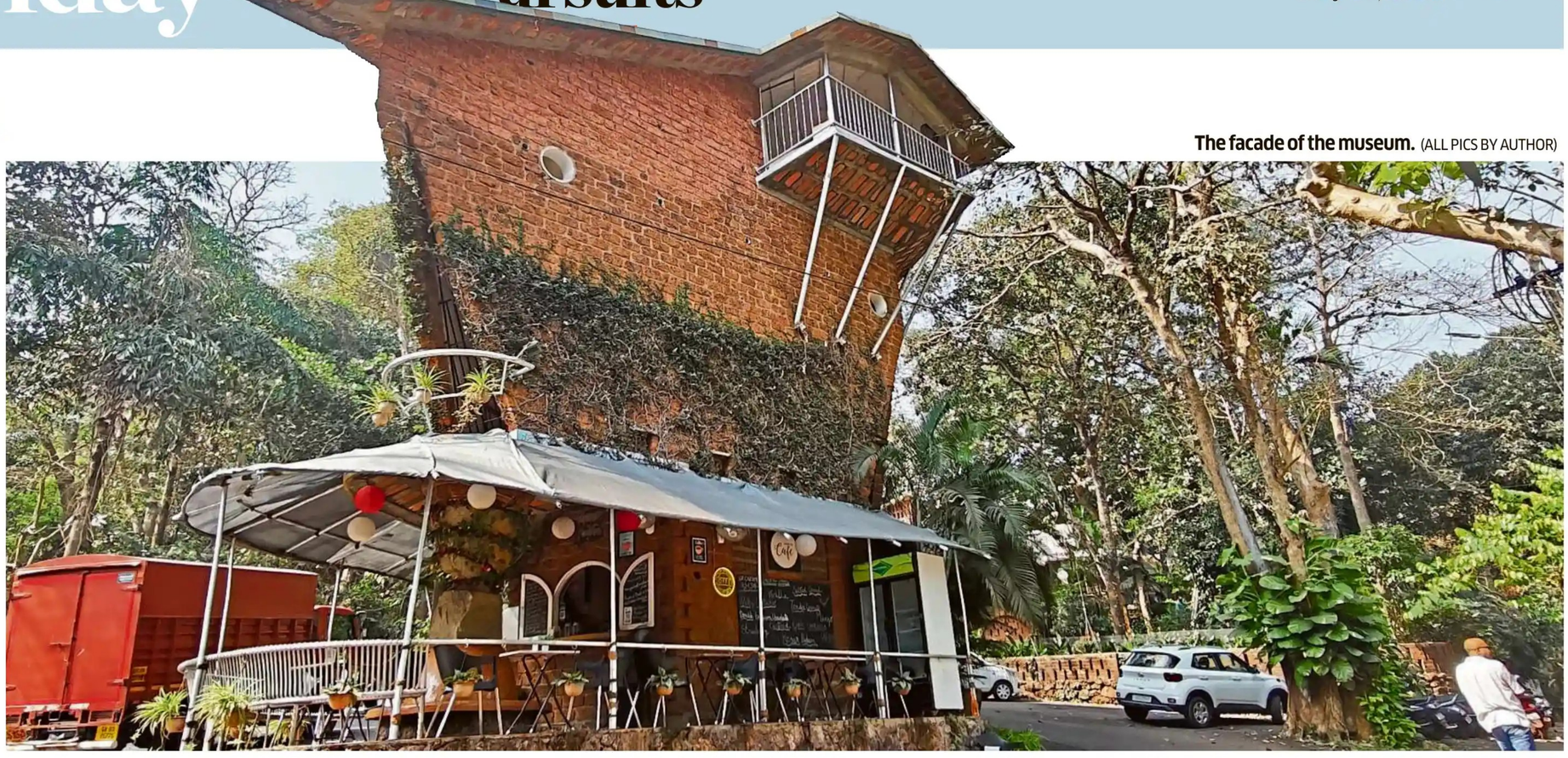
(The author is consultant interventional pulmonology and sleep medicine at a Hyderabad hospital.)

*(**Mythbuster** is a column that picks up a popular wellness belief and examines if it is true, false, or maybe lies somewhere in between.)*

MUSEUM MATTERS

In Porvorim, a ship-like museum rises from the middle of the road, carrying within it stories of Goan houses, Portuguese traditions, and even forgotten ragi mills from Doddaballapura, writes Shree D N

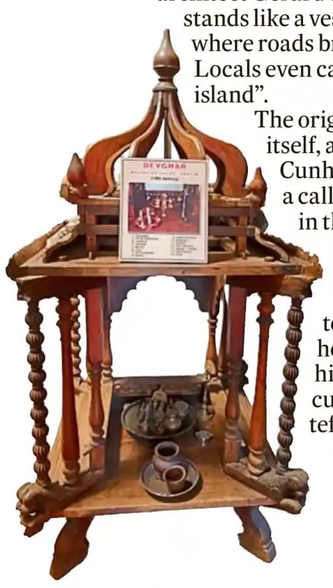
History in ink & stone



The facade of the museum. (ALL PICS BY AUTHOR)

There is something pleasantly disorienting about arriving at a museum that sits in the middle of a road. No grand entrance, no sweeping driveway — just a triangular, ship-like structure rising like a traffic island in the village of Torda, Salvador-do-Mundo, in Porvorim, Goa.

It feels as though the ship sailed in from some colonial-era sea. Yet the earthy hues and creepers running across it give it a distinctly homely feel. Conceptualised by architect Gerard da Cunha, the museum stands like a vessel anchored at a junction where roads branch in three directions. Locals even call it "Gerard's traffic island".



'Devghar' from Panjim, 19th century.

The origin of the museum is, in itself, a story worth knowing. Da Cunha, speaking to *DHoS* over a call, recalled how his interest in the architectural history of Goa led him into years of research in the late 1990s. Through interns sent out to measure and document houses during their time at his office, he gradually accumulated architectural artefacts and written material. But no publisher would take on his book, Houses of Goa, which drew from this research. So da Cunha mounted an exhibition in Panjim using the material he had collected. The response was immediate. Visitors began pre-booking the book, and the exhibition travelled to Lisbon, Porto, Mumbai and Delhi before returning to Goa.

A grinding stone from Doddaballapura, 19th century.

Around 2003–04, da Cunha finally built the museum, driven by two simultaneous needs: a permanent home for the travelling exhibition on Goan houses, and a structure that could also function as a traffic island on the site.

The museum is built largely with laterite stone, abundant in Goa and prized for its natural thermal insulation. Even in the coastal heat, the interiors remain noticeably cool. Spread across multiple levels, the museum traces the history of Goan architecture through its materials, traditions and stylistic shifts, presenting it in a way that is both detailed and accessible.

Visitors are asked to remove their footwear at the entrance. After learning that we were from Bengaluru, museum staff member Jovito Andrade pointed to three massive supports holding up the structure. "This museum stands on three pillars, and they have Doddaballapura roots," he said.

The "pillars" are actually enormous grinding mills once used in the farms around Doddaballapura. Farmers tied oxen around them to mill ragi. Da Cunha later explained that he had first spotted these abandoned structures during bike rides around Hesaraghatta in the 1980s, while setting up Nrityagram. Each weighed around 2,500 kilos. He bought 15 of them for Rs 500 apiece.

Many found aesthetic use within Nrityagram itself, but three were transported to Porvorim and incorporated into the museum as structural pillars. The ground floor houses a shop selling books, mugs and cards, some featuring the work of celebrated Goan cartoonist Mario Miranda. A spiral staircase leads to the first floor, where the exhibition begins.

This level narrates Goa's history from 1300 BC onwards through sketches by Mario Miranda, paying particular attention to the deep architectural impact of Portuguese arrival in the region. Miranda's presence runs through the museum in more ways than one; he also released da Cunha's Houses of Goa in 1999.

The first floor also contains models of Goan houses, photographs of architectural styles from around the world, and house plans of structures such as Palacio Santana de Silva, laying the foundation for the museum's larger exploration of Goan domestic architecture.

Nearby panels explain the logic behind different house forms. There is a recreated Deshprabhu house, a traditional dwelling associated with the Saraswat Brahmin community, marked by functional simplicity. In contrast stands the Brahmin wada, a sprawling multi-storeyed mansion reflecting the wealth and status of Goa's elite classes.

This is where the museum fully earns its name.

The second floor contains elements salvaged from actual Goan houses: paintings, ornaments, railings, doors and fragments of buildings displayed almost as living memory. Particularly compelling are the text-and-photo panels explaining features such as tulsi vrindavanas — ornate painted structures used for growing holy basil — and balcaos, the distinctive porch-like frontages of Portuguese-style houses, often approached by broad stairways.

The 'Machila', one of the main means of transport during the Portuguese colonial era (starting from the 16th century).

A wall cupboard from 1917, chapel doors, altars, ceramic tiles and old furnishings populate the floor. In one corner sits the machila, the hand-carried two-person carriage once seen in old Goan hotels, as though it might still be waiting for passengers.

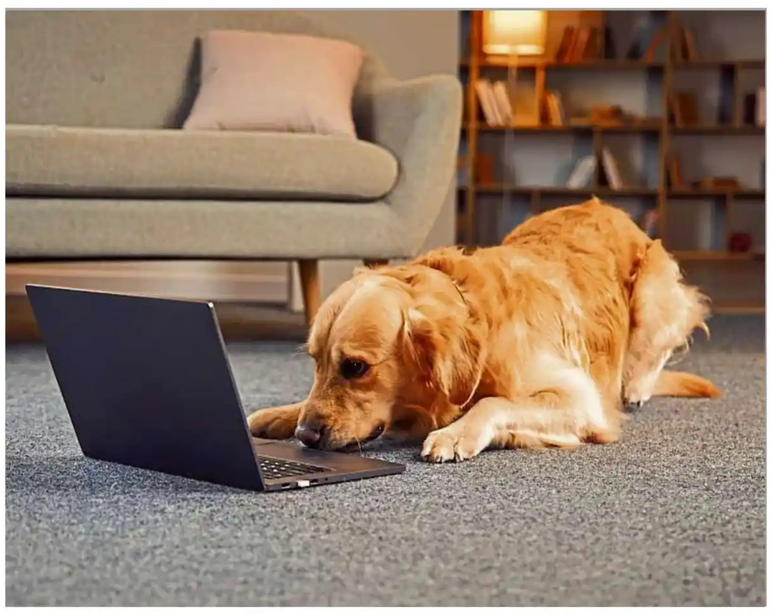
The third floor opens out into an auditorium-like space lined with more wall exhibits on balcaos, tulsi vrindavans, hallways, wooden furniture and old paintings. After the denser lower floors, the room feels almost like an exhalation.

Da Cunha himself admits the museum now requires some modernisation. Things are, as he puts it, "looking a little old". Yet there is something apt about that. A museum dedicated to houses that weather time, absorb generations and continue standing perhaps ought to show its own age a little gracefully too. The Houses of Goa Museum is small enough to finish in about ninety minutes, but it offers a remarkably concentrated portrait of how architecture shapes people and place, and how Portuguese stone and Konkan laterite slowly learned, over four centuries, to belong together.

The Houses of Goa Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am to 7.30 pm. Entry costs Rs 100 for adults and Rs 25 for children. The ticket also includes a Rs 50 coupon redeemable at the in-house café or souvenir shop.

PAWS & LIFE

The thing about living with dogs is that they don't just share our lives, they reorganise them until their rhythms become the world we live in, writes Nalini Sorensen



Contemplating the next post, are we?

If my clever dog had a social media account...

I live in Mumbai, and we're in the midst of a heatwave. I'm melting. As my air conditioner valiantly attempts to lower the temperature in my oven-like bedroom to 16 degrees Celsius, I lie semi-conscious, contemplating life choices I didn't even know I'd made. I recently began exploring a relatively new social media platform, and it's slowly worming its way into becoming one of my favourite online spaces. So, as my brain slowly melts into a puddle of nothingness, my burning thought is this: What if my dog, Sydney, ran her own account?

Thread 1
@the.real.sydney
The audacity! My mom just ate a full ice cream without sharing even a drop with me. Have any of your parents ever done this? What kind of a family is this? I'm stuck in this heatwave too, you know.

Eating is a group project. I don't make the rules. I simply uphold them.

Thread 2
@ the.real.sydney
It's funny how my humans think I am their pet. If only someone told them that they're actually our pets. Who's gonna bite? Come on, Thriends!

Thread 3
@ the.real.sydney
The truth is, we go on walks, but only one of us knows it's a walk. I mean... he was on the phone the entire time! Sir, this is not a conference call. This is an active investigation.

Sorry for the rant. I had at least six important smells to get to.

Thread 4
@ the.real.sydney
So, I have a story. My dad decided to give me a bath today. Normally, it's my mom. He has absolutely no idea what he's doing. For starters, the temperature of the water was all wrong. I tried to show him that it was too cold, but he didn't get it. My mom came to check in on us and adjusted the temperature, but not before she made it too hot first. So, between the two of them, I experienced all four seasons in under three minutes. (1/3)

@ the.real.sydney
I think he used around half the bottle of shampoo on me. There were bubbles everywhere ... literally floating around in the bathroom. I couldn't even see my paws. I realised this was going to be a problem, but there was no stopping him. He scrubbed my back and then started to wash the soap off. Around half the soap was off...when it looked like he was calling it a day. Huh? My fur still felt slippery and soapy, but I had a feeling he was losing steam and that he thought my bath had ended. (2/3)

@ the.real.sydney
I had to take matters into my own paws. This was an emergency. A disaster. I waited for him to turn his back, and then, as quick as lightning, I slipped out of the bathroom door, gliding and sliding along the way. I didn't even stop to shake off the drops of water. I ran to my mom, jumped on the bed, and put my paw on her. "What's this?" she asked. "You still have soap all over you!"

Mission accomplished, thriends. I vigorously shook my body — all those drops of water and soap — all over her, and on the bed. This is how we do it. We teach them constantly. (3/3)

Thread 5
@ the.real.sydney
I'm very strategic about when and how I follow commands.

Sit: I sometimes comply.

Fetch: I love.

Stay: I point-blank ignore.

Drop it: I pretend like I don't understand. No comprendo.

I've done this consistently over the years. And yet they don't get it.

Somewhere between the heatwave and the half-rinsed shampoo, I realise that Sydney does not need her own social media account. She already runs the algorithm in our home pretty efficiently. Maybe this is the thing about living with dogs — they don't just share our lives, they reorganise them until their rhythms become the world we live in too.

The writer is an award-winning children's author who loves dogs, children, and books — the order changes daily. Write to her at nalinisorensen @gmail.com
Paws & Life *is a monthly column that reflects on how our pets shape the way we live, love, and learn.*

ON THE PALETTE

An ongoing exhibition in Delhi explores devotion as something tactile and deeply lived, an emotion which seamlessly fuses memory and ritual, says Shailaja Tripathi

The many faces of faith

There is something deeply intimate about devotional art. It is not just meant to be seen; it is meant to be felt, experienced, and returned to again and again. At 'Dakhin Dilli-A Sacred Dialogue', presented by Raseel Gujral Art Legacy, that intimacy takes centre stage, bringing together traditions from south and north India.

Raseel Gujral Ansal, the curator, has presented it as a powerful conversation between regions, styles, and ways of seeing the divine. And it's not loud.

At its heart, the show is simple. "The theme is devotion. It had to speak to me at a visceral level. The *bhava*, the emotion, is very important. It's a very intangible selection process," says Gujral, a well-known interior designer. That emotion is visible the moment you enter.

While the exhibition explores a dialogue between Dakhin and Dilli, its starting point was more personal. "It was really about bringing the south to the north," Gujral explains.

She points out that while north Indian devotional art, particularly from Rajasthan, is more easily found and circulated, works from the south are not as readily available in Delhi. "You don't find authentic Dakhin handicrafts and devotional art as much in the north. So this was an attempt to bring them together in one place." That intent shapes the exhibition.

A meeting of styles

What makes the show compelling is the way different traditions sit alongside each other without competing.

There are radiant Tanjore paintings, rich with gold leaf and intricate detailing, in which deities such as Raghunathan Swami, Panchmukhi Hanuman, Krishna, and Ashtalakshmi appear as though emerging from temple sanctums.

Mysuru reverse glass paintings are more delicate. Painted on the back of glass, works like Yashodha and Krishna, Venugopala, and Bala Krishna shimmer with colour and precision.

Then there are the iconic oleographs of Raja Ravi Varma — images of Lakshmi, Saraswati, Mohini, and Radha Rukmani — the kind of sacred imagery once found in almost every home. They evoke familiarity and nostalgia while also highlighting their role in making devotion accessible.

From the north, Pichwai paintings open up an entirely different world, filled with movement and narrative. Works like 'Shrinathji', 'Krishna under the Kadam Tree with Gopis', and 'Vintage Sharad' bring the pastoral landscapes of Vrindavan alive with music, celebration, and devotion.

When asked about the process of curating, Gujral responds, "Curation is a very personal and authentic process. It's not cerebral. It's about visually understanding which genres can come together to tell a story."

As the works come together, subtle connections begin to emerge. Gujral says she did notice overlaps, for instance, between Pichwai traditions and certain southern styles. But more than specific similarities, what stood out was how everything transformed when placed side by side. "When you put them together, they tell a very different story. It becomes a new visual expression," the curator remarks.

Unlike highly structured curatorial frameworks, Gujral's approach is guided by instinct. This instinctive approach also made it easier to bring together diverse forms. Having grown up around these traditions and worked closely with design, she was already familiar with their language. "I understand how to harmonise different elements without creating visual disharmony," she explains.

Among the many works on display, one holds special meaning for her. "The centrepiece of the show is the Annapakshi." It's a striking early 19th-century wooden sculpture. As the mythical *vahana* (vehicle) of Saraswati, it carries both symbolic and aesthetic weight. Placed within the exhibition, it becomes an anchor of sorts, connecting the spiritual with the material, the past and the present.

What also stands out is the presence of ritual objects, guardian figures, and sacred mounts. Reimagined here as artworks, they are part of lived practices, once used in temples, festivals, or homes. The pieces emphasise that devotion is not only visual. It is tactile, personal, and deeply embedded in everyday life.

The exhibition is on view till May 30 at Arzaani, Bikaner House, Pandara Road, New Delhi.

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